



U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee
Department of Health and Human Services

Minutes of General Meeting
FDA White Oak Great Room
1400-1530 EST on 03 April 2014

Phone #: 855-828-1770 or 301-796-7777

Meeting ID: 9675592

Password: 9675592 (if requested)

Adobe Connect: <https://collaboration.fda.gov/pharmpacgeneral/>

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Pharmacy Category Action Items

One Time Tasks (Arranged by Due Date)

Due Date	Task
Now	Review Pharmacy Category 2014 Benchmarks at: http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/PHARMACY%20Benchmarks%20Final%202014.pdf
Now	Provide feedback to the Commission Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board Link to survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7TGZNF3
11 April 2014 (early registration)	USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, 10-12 June 2014 Raleigh NC Registration is available at http://symposium.phscof.org/registration Please note that Early Bird registration runs through 11 April 2014, standard registration runs through 28 May and afterwards registration will be on-site only
18 April 2014	Army 10 Miler Registration is Due (race date : 12 October 2014, Washington DC)

Continuous Tasks

Task (Frequency)
Review CPO Report and complete its Action Items (Monthly). Note, a CPO report was not provided for April
Ensure Basic Readiness . Checks are completed quarterly as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 June 2014 • 30 September 2014 • 31 December 2014 (Must be Basic Ready at this point for the following year's promotion boards)
<i>PharmPAC Perspectives</i> Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review new issues (Quarterly) • Volunteer to submit articles to the Communication Section (Whenever you can!)
PharmPAC Meetings/Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review previous minutes if missed meeting (Monthly) • Review Liaison Reports for Agency Specific Information (Monthly) • Attend future meeting (first Thursday of the month at 1400 EST)
Annual Physical Fitness Test (APFT) – Go To the PharmPAC's APFT Initiative Website
Report out on any direct or indirect impact from the Pharmacy Report to the Surgeon General to LCDR Eunice Chung-Davies (eunice.chung-davies@fda.hhs.gov).
USPHS Awards (Done annually, generally in March) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Criteria (http://staging.usphs2.cit.nih.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_admin_awards.aspx) • Nominate eligible officer(s), submitting all material as ONE .pdf to the Administration Section

Call to Order: CDR Jefferson Fredy, PharmPAC Chair-Elect for LCDR Marisol Martinez, PharmPAC Chair

- The meeting began at 1402 EST.

Roll Call/Attendance: LCDR Melinda McLawhorn, PharmPAC Executive Secretary

Phone #: 855-828-1770 or 301-796-7777

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Name	Section	OPDIV	CITY, STATE	PRESENT	Alternate	PRESENT
RADM Scott Giberson	CPO	OS	Rockville, MD	No	N/A	
LCDR Marisol Martinez	Chair	DoD	Fort Sam Houston, TX	No	CAPT Nita Sood	No
CDR Jefferson Fredy	Chair-Elect	IHS	Crownpoint, NM	Yes	LT Keith Warshany	
CAPT Aaron Sigler	Career Development	FDA	Rockville, MD	Yes	LCDR Craig Kiester	
CDR Michael Crockett	Ex-Officio	BOP	Pollock, LA	Yes	LCDR Tami Rodriguez	
CDR Kavita Dada	Administration	FDA	Silver Spring, MD	Yes	CDR Jaewon Hong	
CDR Janelle Derbis	Readiness	FDA	Chicago, IL	No	CDR William Pierce	Yes
CDR Dean Goroski	Career Development	IHS	Toppenish, WA	Yes	LCDR Mark Iseri	
CDR Kenda Jefferson	Readiness	DHS-OS	Washington, D.C.	Yes	LCDR Carl Olongo	
CDR Shary Jones	Career Development	OS	Washington, D.C.	Yes	LCDR Chaltu Wakijra	
CDR Jinhee Lee	Administration	SAMHSA	Rockville, MD	Yes	CDR Jennifer Fan	
CDR Selena Ready	Recruitment	FDA	Silver Spring, MD	Yes	CDR Mark Miller	
CDR David Schatz	Administration	DHS/USCG	Kodiak, AK	Yes	LT Jeremy Gutasfson	
CDR Juliette Touré	Readiness	FDA	Silver Spring, MD	Yes	CDR Diem-Kieu Ngo	
LCDR Troy Bernardo	Career Development	BOP	Butner, NC	Yes	LCDR Anna Santoro	
LCDR Tina Bhavsar	Communications	CDC	Atlanta, GA	Yes	LT Jennifer Lind	
LCDR Anne Marie Bott	Recruitment	IHS	Anchorage, AK	Yes	LT Matthew Duff	
LCDR Brittany Keener	Recruitment	IHS	Anchorage, AK	Yes	LCDR Christina Eldridge	
LCDR Kara King	Recruitment	IHS	Anchorage, AK	Yes	CDR Damion KILLSBACK	
LCDR Khang Ngo	Communications	IHS	Taholah, WA	Yes	LCDR Kimberly Walters	
LCDR Jodi Tricinella	Communications	IHS	Claremore, OK	Yes	LCDR Stephanie Arnold	
LCDR Rodney Waite	Communications	BOP	Milan, MI	Yes	CDR Jaime Morris	
LT Marie Manteuffel	Readiness	CMS	Baltimore, MD	Yes	LCDR Jeannette Joyner	
LT Jane McLaughlin – Middlekauff	Administration	HRSA	Rockville, MD	Yes	LCDR Alexis Beyer	
LCDR Melinda McLawhorn	Exec. Secretary	FDA	Silver Spring, MD	Yes	N/A	

Number of Callers on Line

April 2014: 119

March 2014: 180

(*plus approximately 70 live participants at FDA WO)

February 2014: 59 (*technical difficulties noted)

January 2014: 113

December 2013: 139

November 2013: 156

October 2013: 176

September 2013: 156

August 2013: 142

June 2013: 107

May 2013: 120

CPO Update & Open Forum: RADM Scott Giberson

- Due to scheduling conflicts, RADM Giberson was not able to attend this meeting and did not provide a CPO report.
-

COF Symposium Update

2014 Pharmacy Category Day Planning Committee:

CDR Peter Diak (peter.diak@fda.hhs.gov)

CDR Jeff Mallette (jxmallette@bop.gov)

LCDR Scott Vehovic (scottrph@msn.com)

- The 2014 PHS Scientific and Training Symposium will be held 10-12 June 2014 at the Raleigh, NC Convention Center. This year's theme is "Public Health Today: Prevention, Innovation, Progress." We anticipate this will be a well-attended and exciting meeting and encourage everyone capable to attend and take advantage of the CE offerings as well as the unparalleled networking opportunities.
- Registration is now open and is available on the symposium website at <http://symposium.phscof.org/registration>
 - Please note that Early Bird registration runs through 11 April, standard registration runs through 28 May and afterwards, registration will be on-site only. Registration fees increase by \$100 or more on each of these dates. Registration fees are significantly lower for COA dues paying members. Please view the website for specific cost information.
- COF has contracted with area hotels at the per diem rate of \$96 per night. Contact info can be found on the symposium website (see above). At the present time all four conference hotels are sold out. Affordable rooms may be available at the following hotels:
 - Days Inn: 300 North Dawson Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, United States +1 919 828 9081
 - Red Roof Inn: 1813 South Saunders Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, United States +1 919 833 6005
 - Comfort Inn: 2539 South Saunders Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, United States +1 919 863 0091
- Some of the highlights of the symposium are:
 - More than 40 track presentations on best practices, case studies, emerging trends and the latest research in public health.
 - The annual PHS birthday celebration, the Anchor and Caduceus Dinner, will be held Tuesday, 10 June from 1900 – 2200.
 - Surgeon General's 5K Run/Walk and APFT will be held Wednesday, 11 June at 0630
 - Pharmacy category day will be held on Thursday, 12 June – the program will run from 0745 to 1645 – and will include six hours of CE provided by fellow PHS pharmacists, category updates, lunch and more networking opportunities.
 - Six preconference courses, including leadership and BLS.
 - An exhibit hall featuring more than 60 vendors.
 - A retirement seminar will be held on Friday, 13 June – this is free of charge and runs from 0830 to 1630.
 - A blood drive and other volunteer opportunities will be available.
 - Additionally, there will be PharmPAC sponsored career counseling and CV review available on Wednesday, June 11th. There are scholarships available for officers ranked O-3 or below and there is reduced rate registration for students. Registration includes Breakfast and Lunch. One day registration is available. More information can be found on the symposium website regarding these.
- The Pharm PAC, HSO PAC, JOAG, BCOAG and NCCOA chapter cordially invite all officers to the ultimate combined social networking event. This combined social will take place on Wednesday night, 11 June at Solas. RSVP to CDR Josef Riverio and reserve your ticket now by sending your payment via paypal account no later than May 30, 2014. Paypal: riverio.josef@gmail.com or 919-901-8598.

http://symposium.phscof.org/docs/Joint_Social_flyer_at_solas_V_5.pdf . The ticket price is tentatively \$15 for junior officers and \$30 for senior officers. Additional information about the event will be provided via the list serve.

Presenting the USPHS Commissioned Corps pharmacy career presentation via videoconference

CDR Kofi Ansah (kofi.ansah@fda.hhs.gov)

CDR Terry Harrison (Terry.Harrison@fda.hhs.gov)

- CDRs Ansah and Harrison presented slides regarding the use of videoconferencing to deliver a recruitment presentation to 160 students at NOVA Southeastern University in Florida.
 - The PharmPAC utilizes the PharmPAC UPOC Recruiting Program as an organized method of communicating and recruiting pharmacy students from pharmacy schools in the U.S. However, there are times when schools are not serviced well in the current paradigm due to various reasons, such as a lack of an assigned UPOC, difficulty in scheduling of the UPOC, or remote location of the college.
 - What is needed to deliver this type of presentation:
 - Videoconferencing equipment (many HHS agencies already have and utilize this equipment).
 - IT staff in the agency and the pharmacy school that will provide the technical expertise .
 - An engaging UPOC who is willing and able to lead a presentation/panel discussion.
 - Suggested path forward:
 - Organize a workgroup to pilot a few more videoconferences and perfect this model.
 - Share our findings with the PharmPAC and other categories through the PharmPAC.
 - Please contact CDRs Ansah and Harrison if you are interested in participating:
 - CDR Terry Harrison, FDA – Division of Psychiatry Products (301) 796-2770
terry.harrison@fda.hhs.gov
 - CDR Kofi Ansah, FDA – Division of Psychiatry Products, (301) 796-4158,
kofi.ansah@fda.hhs.gov
-

USPHS Commission Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board

LCDR Mona Patel (Mona.Patel@fda.hhs.gov)

- The mission of the Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board is to identify and analyze key issues that impact women in the USPHS Commissioned Corps and develop action plans to address issues.
 - It was established in 2011 and supports 2009 Executive Order establishing the White House Council on Women and Girls.
 - Membership includes: Chairperson – Flag Officer, co-chairperson, executive assistant, and 12 voting members. The membership must include officers from Medical, Dental, Engineering, and Environmental Health categories, which typically have an underrepresentation of women. Each member is appointed by the Surgeon General with staggered terms of two, three, or four years.
 - The advisory board's accomplishments include establishing committees to address pregnancy-related issues, violence prevention, outreach and breastfeeding. A breastfeeding policy has been approved and the following publication is under development, "The Resource Guide for Expectant Parents of the USPHS Commissioned Corps."
 - **Please provide feedback through the following survey.** Link to survey:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7TGZNF3>
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Readiness Section Update

CDR Janelle Derbis (Janelle.derbis@fda.hhs.gov)

CDR Kenda Jefferson (kenda.jefferson@live.com, kenda.jefferson@hq.dhs.gov)

CDR Juliette Touré (Juliette.toure@fda.hhs.gov)

LT Marie Manteuffel (marie.manteuffel@cms.hhs.gov)

Section Web Address: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_readiness.aspx

Responsibilities: [APFT Initiative](#), [Readiness Resources](#)

- *Readiness Status Adjudication (LT Marie Manteuffel)*: 1 April 2014 Self-Service for Direct Access will be temporarily unavailable for approximately the first two weeks of April.
- *APFT Initiative* (LCDRs Kishore and Kalra, co-leads of the PharmPAC PACE Workgroup).
Congratulations to the new PACE recipients:

PACE Recipients for February 2014
LCDR Benjamin Keller
LCDR Abby Peterson
LT Andrew Bernard
LT Russell DeVolder
LT Jung Lee
LT Gina Luginbill
LT Alice Tu
LT Sarah Watkins
LT Jay Wong

- Thank you to members of the PACE Workgroup for their hard work and dedication in helping make this program a great success.
 - For questions, please contact PharmPACReadiness@fda.hhs.gov
 - *RADM Kendig's and Lushniak's Call to Action for 200 PHS Officers – Army Ten Miller in DC (LCDR Eunice Chung-Davies)*
 - POCs: CAPT Shelley Hoogstraten-Miller (shoogstr@mail.nih.gov) or CDR Evan Shukan (shukanet@mail.nih.gov).
 - Priority registration for PHS officers, if your form (attached) and check is received by **18 April 2014!**
 - The goal is to recruit 200 officers to participate in this race and double the number of participants from 2013.
 - The registration is also open to non-PHS officers. Registration opens for everyone else in May.
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Recruitment Section Update

CDR Selena Ready (Selena.Ready@fda.hhs.gov)

LCDR Anne Marie Bott (ambott@anthc.org)

LCDR Brittany Keener (blkeener@anthc.org)

LCDR Kara King (kaking@anthc.org)

Section Web Address: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_recruit.aspx

Responsibilities: [Duty Station Map](#), Pharmacy's Best Kept Secret ([PBKS](#)), UPOC ([Activity Report](#), [Biannual Report](#), [Master List](#), [Newsletter](#), [Request to be a POC](#)), Recruitment Presentations ([BOP](#), [IHS](#), [PHS](#)), Vacancy Listings ([Vacancy Map](#)), [Welcome to the PHS!](#)

- Selections have been made for the USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice award. We received 77 nominations and 63 were selected to receive this highly competitive award. The schools have been notified of their status and we are currently in the process of coordinating volunteer Officers to present the awards. Thank you to the Admin section and all of the others who have assisted in coordinating the award process this year.
- Room Share website is available to serve as a resource for officers that wish to share a room to reduce expenditures at upcoming national pharmacy meetings (COA, JFPS, AMSUS, ASHP Midyear and APhA). See: <https://sites.google.com/a/phspharmacist.org/pharmpac-tools/current-officers/ashp-hotel-sharing-forum>.
- *Website (LCDR Ryan Stevens, LT Zachary Woodward):* The 2014 PHS Recruitment presentation has been posted to the website under "Recruitment Presentations." Please use this presentation for your upcoming speaking engagements regarding PHS Pharmacy: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_recruit_pres.aspx
- *University Points of Contact (UPOC) (LCDR Anne Marie Bott):*
 - UPOC Roles and Responsibilities - any officers serving as UPOCs are expected to maintain at least two points of contact with their assigned university(s). There is also an expectation to respond back to the UPOC biannual reports ensuring that each officer has accomplished at least one of the two required contacts, that they have logged their recruitment activities on the PharmPAC Recruitment Tools Website, that the officer is still interested in continuing with the UPOC program and inquiring if any of their information has changed. If two biannual reports have been disseminated and there is no report filed, inactive officers will be removed from the UPOC Program. This action is multi-factorial. This ensures that responsive and dedicated officers remain engaged and ready respond and serve and will allow us administratively to clean-up the list of officer volunteers. Any questions please e-mail Lcdr Anne Marie Bott at ambott@anthc.org.
 - Activity Reports are to be submitted to: <https://sites.google.com/a/phspharmacist.org/pharmpac-tools/current-officers/upoc-activity-report>. Please note that this site is blocked by many HHS agencies (i.e. FDA and BOP); thus, you must access it on your personal device or computer.
 - Biannual Reports are to be submitted to: <https://sites.google.com/a/phspharmacist.org/pharmpac-tools/upoc-biannual-report>. Please note that this site is blocked by many HHS agencies (i.e. FDA and BOP); thus, you must access it on your personal device or computer.
 - The Points of Contacts for Schools of Pharmacy list has been updated on the PharmPAC Recruitment Section website (<http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/documents/UPOCMasterList.pdf>). Please review the list to ensure your information is correct. If not, please email Lcdr Anne Marie Bott (ambott@anthc.org) to have this information updated.

- UPOC Newsletter Workgroup is soliciting articles for the upcoming Spring Edition of the UPOC Newsletter. This is inclusive of activities at ASHP Midyear in Orlando, the upcoming APhA Symposium, and any other recent recruitment activity. Please consider the following when submitting an article for publication in the UPOC Newsletter:
 - The submission deadline for the Spring 2014 issue is 1 May 2014.
 - Please write in a concise manner that conveys the main point of your experience or activity. We recommend that articles include between 300-800 words.
 - When writing your article, please consider sharing information that might be useful to pharmacy students who might be considering a career in PHS or those with an upcoming rotation with a preceptor in PHS.
 - We would like to have pictures or graphics, such as the Pharmacy School logo, to accompany the article. Please also provide captions for the pictures.
 - For students, please obtain approval from your School of Pharmacy's leadership (for example, the Dean of Student Affairs or Director of your school's experiential program) for articles that involve activities which occur at your school. Please provide email documentation of your school's approval via email to hcueco@SouthcentralFoundation.com.
 - For PHS officers, please determine if approval from your chain of command is required prior to submitting your article.
 - Articles can be emailed to LT Honeylit Cueco at hcueco@SouthcentralFoundation.com.
 - *PHS Vacancies Document Workgroup (CDR Glenna Meade)*: The vacancy announcement submission posting was sent on 4 March 2014.
 - A 2014 version of the "Best Kept Secrets" document is currently under review. There have been issues with hosting the previous version on the website. While the recruitment section is investigating this issue, please contact members of the recruitment section in you need a copy.
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Administration Section Update

CDR Kavita Dada (kavita.dada@fda.hhs.gov)

CDR Jinhee Lee (Jinhee.Lee@samhsa.hhs.gov)

CDR David Schatz (david.j.schatz@uscg.mil)

LT Jane McLaughlin-Middlekauff (JMcLaughlin@hrsa.gov)

Section Web Address: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_admin.aspx

Responsibilities: [Awards](#), [Charter](#), [Coins \(Order\)](#), History, [Liaisons](#) ([Agency Liaisons](#), [Organization Liaisons](#)),

Legislation Monitoring, [PharmPAC Member Directory](#), [PHS Pharmacists List](#), [SOP](#)

- PharmPAC Honor Award announcement was sent out on 29 January 2014 (Pharmacist Responder of the Year, Clinical Pharmacist of the Year, Leadership Award, Career Achievement Award, and Managerial Excellence Award). The deadline for submission is 31 Mar 2014. Details of the award criteria and nomination packets can be found on the award section of the PharmPAC Web site - http://usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_admin_awards.aspx or contact CDR Dave Schatz at david.j.schatz@uscg.mil
 - PharmPAC Member Nomination Announcement forthcoming for 8 vacancies (FDA – 1, DoD – 1, BOP – 2, IHS – 3, Ex-minimus – 1)
 - New DoD Liaison – LT Kendra Jenkins
-

Career Development Section Update

CAPT Aaron Sigler (Aaron.Sigler@fda.hhs.gov)

CDR Dean Goroski (dean.goroski@ihs.gov)

CDR Shary Jones (Shary.Jones@hhs.gov)

LCDR Troy Bernardo (tbernardo@bop.gov)

Section Web Address: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_career.aspx

Responsibilities: [Career Guidance](#), CV Template ([PDF](#), [Word](#)), [Mentoring](#) ([Tools](#))

- Career Counseling at COF will be held on 11 June 2014 1245 to 1445. The sessions are planned for 30 minute one on one mentoring meetings. A communication regarding mentoring sessions will be provided via the list serve. Based on the level of interest, we may consider having additional sessions available.
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Communications Section Update

LCDR Tina Bhavsar (TBHAVSAR@CDC.GOV)

LCDR Khang Ngo (Khang.Ngo.USPHS@hotmail.com)

LCDR Jodi Tricinella (Jodi.tricinella@ihs.gov)

LCDR Rodney Waite (rcwaite@bop.gov)

Section Web Address: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy/sc_comms.aspx

Responsibilities: [Calendar of Events/Meetings](#), [Listserv](#), [Minutes](#), [PLANT](#), Public Health Awareness, Website

- The Spring newsletter should be published by the end of April. Please consider writing and submitting articles for the Summer newsletter.
 - The section is preparing for another publications webinar. Please contact members of the communications section in you have ideas for the webinar or would like to participate.
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PAC Chair Update/Open Forum: CDR Jefferson Fredy, PharmPAC Chair-Elect for LCDR Marisol Martinez, PharmPAC Chair

- Everybody Walk Initiative: 9 April 2014 at Coast Guard Headquarters:
 - RADM Maura K. Dollymore, will be hosting the Acting Surgeon General's visit to the USCG Headquarters Campus on 9 April 2014 (1030hrs-1130hrs) in "Celebration of National Public Health Week - Let's Get Moving!" All USPHS pharmacy officers are welcome to attend to support the distinguished guests: RADM Boris Lushniak and RADM Scott Giberson
 - Also a walking event organized by HRSA: Parklawn Building, Rockville, MD 12:00 PM – 12:45 PM
 - OBC: 6 April 2014 to 18 April 2014 at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg MD.
 - Open house is scheduled for 10 April 2014 at 1800 EST.
 - Pinning ceremony will be held on 11 April 2014 at 0800 EST
 - Graduation is scheduled for 18 April at 1030 EST.
 - For additional information, visit <http://ccmis.usphs.gov/ccmis/COTA/obcdates.aspx>
 - There will be no OBC course held in May and will resume in June.
 - Acknowledgments
 - Distinguished Federal Pharmacist Award - CAPT Pamela M. Schweitzer
<<http://pharmacist.com/capt-pamela-m-schweitzer-receives-2014-apha-distinguished-federal-pharmacist-award>> The award recognizes pharmacists who distinguish themselves and the profession through outstanding contributions in federal pharmacy practice resulting in significant improvements in the health of the nation and the populations they serve.
 - Immunization Champion – Individual Practitioner category, LT Carlisha Gentles (Tsaile, AZ) received Honorable Mention. Great job LT!
 - Pharmacists present PHS awards to medical students across the US:
 - This year, the Physician PAC reached out to the PharmPAC for help because they couldn't have an officer at each award ceremony. LCDR Keener and LCDR Bott sent an email out and got many responses to help. Thank you to all who will be volunteering your time to present these PHS awards.
 - QUAD meeting- 11 April 2014
 - Attendees include RADM Giberson and CAPT Pamela Schweitzer
 - CAPT Mark Strong is retiring after over 40 years of uniformed service.
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PAC Chair-Elect Update: CDR Jefferson Fredy

(Email: Jefferson.fredy@ihs.gov)

- See above
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Old/New Business: CDR Jefferson Fredy

- None
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The meeting was adjourned at 1450 EST.

Next Meeting Date:

01 May 2014 from 1400 to 1530 EST
White Oak Conference Room
Bldg. 22
Room 1419

Agenda and call-in information will be distributed prior to the meeting.

Useful Links and Contact Info:

E-Mails

PharmPAC@list.nih.gov

PHS-Pharmacists@list.nih.gov

PHS-RX-JOBS@list.nih.gov

PHS-Rx-Students@list.nih.gov

List serves

PHS Pharmacists	https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-pharmacists.html
Commissioned Corps Vacancies	https://list.nih.gov/archives/ccvacancies-l.html
JOAG	https://list.nih.gov/archives/joag.html
OFRD	https://list.nih.gov/cgi-bin/wa.exe?A0=ofrd
PHS Immunizing Pharmacists	https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-immunizing-pharm.html
PHS Rx Students	https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-students.html
RPh Job Vacancies	https://list.nih.gov/archives/phs-rx-jobs.html

Websites

PharmPAC	http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/pharmacy
Benchmarks for Pharmacy	http://dcp.psc.gov/ccmis/PDF_docs/PHARMACY%20Benchmarks%20Final%202014.pdf
CCMIS	http://dcp.psc.gov
Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/USPHSPharmacists
JOAG	http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/joag/
OFRD	http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/
PharmPAC APFT Site	https://sites.google.com/site/usphspharmacyreadiness/
USPHS	http://www.usphs.gov

--Respectfully Submitted,

Melinda McLawhorn / 01 May 2014
LCDR Melinda McLawhorn, Executive Secretary Date

Marisol Martinez / 01 May 2014
LCDR Marisol Martinez, Chair Date

Attachments

Recurring Attachments

ATTACHMENT NAME	PROVIDED? ("Yes" or "No")	AGENCY'S PHARMPAC LIAISON
CPO Update	No	RADM Giberson
JOAG Liaison Report	Yes	LCDR Robert Kosko (robert.kosko@fda.hhs.gov)
AGENCY REPORTS		
BOP Liaison Report	Yes	LT Michelle Williams (Mrwilliams@bop.gov)
CDC Liaison Report	Yes	LT Jennifer Lind (JLind@cdc.gov)
CMS Liaison Report	Yes	LT Teisha Robertson (Teisha.Robertson@cms.hhs.gov)
FDA Liaison Report	Yes	LT Sadhna Khatri (sadhna.khatri@fda.hhs.gov)
IHS Liaison Report	Yes	CDR Wil Darwin (Wil.darwinjr@ihs.gov)
NIH Liaison Report	Yes	CAPT David Diwa and CDR Richard DeCederfelt (rdecederfe@cc.nih.gov)
HRSA	No	CAPT Josephine Lyght (JLyght@hrsa.gov)
DHS: USCG	Yes	LCDR Paul Michaud (paul.t.michaud@uscg.mil)
DHS: IHSC	Yes	LT Stephanie Daniels (Stephanie.Daniels@phs.dhs.gov)
DoD	No	TBD
OS	Yes	CDR Samuel Wu (Samuel.wu@hhs.gov).
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION REPORTS Coordinated by CDR Robert Macky (rmacky@bop.gov)		
AMCP	Yes	LCDR Shannon Hill (shannon.hill@fda.hhs.gov)
AAHIVM	Yes	CDR Robert Macky (rmacky@bop.gov)
AACP	Yes	CDR Louis Flowers (Louis.flowers@fda.gov)
ACCP	Yes	CDR Jill Reid (jillr@searhc.org)
AMSUS	Yes (March)	CDR Thomas Addison (thomas.addison@ihs.gov)
APhA	Yes	LCDR Khang Ngo (khang.ngo.usphs@hotmail.com), LCDR James Dvorsky (james.dvorsky@fda.hhs.gov)
APHA	Yes	LCDR Liatte Krueger (Liatte.Krueger@fda.hhs.gov)
ASCP	No	CDR Wil Darwin (wil.darwinjr@ihs.gov)
ASHP	Yes	CDR Randy Seys (rseys@bop.gov)
ASHP Foundation	Yes	CDR Carrie Ceresa (Carrie.Ceresa@fda.hhs.gov),
COA	Yes	LCDR Alexis Beyer (abeyer@hrsa.gov)

Disclaimer: Original versions of the reports listed in the previous table were provided via email to the PHS Pharmacists List serve by the PharmPAC Executive Secretary following the monthly PharmPAC meeting. In addition, these reports have been merged at the end of the monthly minutes for reference and appear on the following pages. However, due to differences in file and version types and the need to minimize the size of the minutes to allow for posting to the website, you may notice a loss in formatting from some of the original reports. If you would like another copy of the original attachment, then please contact the PharmPAC Executive Secretary.

Special Attachments

- ATM Registration

2014 USPHS Army 10-Miler Registration Form

The race takes place Sunday, October 12, 2014!

Name: _____

Rank: _____ PHS #: _____

(Don't have a Rank or PHS#? That's OK, we LOVE honorary PHSer's!!)

Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Sex: _____ Birth Date: _____

Predicted Time* (used for team placement): _____

*Tell us if you want to be on a team with someone in particular – we'll try to accommodate!

Registering more than one person?

We need the above information for each person!

1. Entry (includes entry, registration fee, and team fee):

_____ X \$78.00/entry = \$ _____
of Entries

2. Sponsor a team! (Optional)

_____ X \$50.00/team = \$ _____
of teams

If sponsoring a team, do you have a particular name and/or division that you want?

3. Got **extra cash lying around you want to offload? (We will use this to augment the Expo, Hooah tent, and post-race "Debriefing".)**

Donation Amount = \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL = \$ _____

Make check (sorry no Paypal or charge card) payable to: Shelley Hoogstraten-Miller

Mail to: 3205 Rittenhouse St NW, Washington, DC 20015

The fine print: You will save a few dollars if you register yourself but you will not have a guaranteed entry! Team fees increased to \$50/team for 2014.

The not-so-fine print: **THE DEADLINE IS APRIL 18, 2014!**

QUESTIONS? Shelley: shoogstr@mail.nih.gov Evan: shukanet@mail.nih.gov

JUNIOR OFFICER ADVISORY GROUP (JOAG)
UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE



DATE: March 25, 2014

TO: Pharmacist Professional Advisory Committee

FROM: LCDR Robert Kosko

SUBJECT: April 2014 JOAG Liaison Report – INFORMATION

- Interviews with the top three applicants for the JOAG **Senior Advisor** position occurred late December 2013. The top candidates were sent to the Surgeon General's Office in the beginning of January 2014.
- Please join the JOAG **Public Health and Community Services Committee, National Prevention Strategy Sub-Committee** and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), to participate in the Annual NAMI 5K Walk on May 03, 2014.

The volunteer event will take place 0800-1100 on Saturday, May 03, 2014, at the Naval Training Center Park in Liberty Station, Farragut Road, San Diego, CA 92106.

All commissioned officers and their families/friends are invited to walk. Please note that fundraising will not be permitted by members of the USPHS NAMI Walk team. If you would like to be part of the USPHS NAMI Walk team, please email LT Swift for instructions.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact:

LT Sarah Swift (USPHS/JOAG)
JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee
National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee
(619) 710-8377 work
(619) 414-4809 cell
sarah.swift@phs.dhs.gov
sswift.psyd@gmail.com

San Diego NAMI 5K WALK (no cost event):

Location:
Naval Training Center Park in Liberty Station
Farragut Road, San Diego, 92106

Date and Time:

Saturday, May 03, 2014

800 – 1100 PDT

Desired Attire: Black or blue PHS T-shirt and comfortable walking shoes. Black PHS ball cap is optional (NO RANK INSIGNIA).

- Please consider volunteering for the **JOAG R&R Information Subcommittee:**

A goal of our subcommittee is to increase Junior Officer's awareness of different policies and procedures. We are in the process of creating an Agency Return Status (ARS) white paper. We are seeking officers to assist with data collection, writing and editing of the ARS white paper.

In addition, our subcommittee is identifying ways to increase communication with PACs. We are seeking officers in all categories interested in this goal, but we are specifically in need officers in dental, EHO, HS, engineer, physician, and therapist categories.

The information subcommittee is a new R&R subcommittee this year assuming the roles of the previous SOP subcommittee and expanding into roles related to improved communication between JOAG R&R and other R&R areas related to USPHS.

Participants would be required to take an active role on this subcommittee and attend at least 50% of R&R subcommittee meetings. Email communication will be utilized and meeting times will be decided after identification of volunteers.

If interested please contact LCDR Dawn Montoya at dmontoya@bop.gov or LT Linzi Allen at Linzi-allen@cherokee.org.

- The **JOAG Communications and Publications, Uniform Subcommittee** is pleased to present the ninth volume of the uniform announcement entitled, "With Pride and Distinction".

The uniform announcement was created to compliment the JOAG Journal "Uniform Corner" article. It is our hope that these resources will educate and assist junior officers on the appropriate wear of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps uniform. To make this information more accessible to junior officers, in the near future.

Officers will be able to view these resources on the JOAG website, Junior Officer Resources section, under "With Pride and Distinction"

http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG/resources_withpride.aspx .

Do you have a uniform question or an issue you'd like addressed? Email the Uniform Subcommittee to have your questions answered in an upcoming edition. Emails can be sent to LT Chitra Mahadevan at Chitra.mahadevan@fda.hhs.gov or LT Katie Burbage at Katie.burbage@tanachiefs.org .

- **JOAG Membership Committee, Meet & Greet Subcommittee**, is looking for additional officers to be Meet & Greet (M&G) Regional Leads and Regional Alternate Leads in different regions. The vacant regions are as follows:
 - Albuquerque, NM
 - Boston, MA (New England area)
 - Chicago, IL
 - Cincinnati, OH
 - Dallas, TX
 - Detroit, MI
 - Denver, CO
 - Kansas City, MO
 - Los Angeles, CA
 - New York City, NY
 - Minneapolis, MN
 - Philadelphia, PA
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Tucson, AZ

If you are interested in being an M&G Lead and develop activities with junior officers (JOs) in your city or region, contact us.

The M&G event is an opportunity, through which JOs in a city or region can be introduced to JOAG, learn about JOAG service opportunities, network, discuss issues relating to the Commissioned Corps, and be provided with professional support and advice.

Regional Lead requirements:

- Coordinate M&G activities with officers in your region;
- Contact JOs in the assigned region to notify about upcoming M&G meetings;
- Develop the regional M&G Agenda; and,
- Provide the Subcommittee Lead and Chair with a summary report after each M&G meeting.

If you are interested in been a Lead or have any questions, please e-mail the subcommittee Co-Leads, LCDR Monique-Rachelle Lester, monique-rachelle.lester@nih.gov, and LCDR Luz E Rivera, luz.e.rivera@fda.hhs.gov.

- The purpose of the **JOAG Recruitment and Retention Committee's Career Fair Information Subcommittee** is to make fellow officers aware of career fairs for potential recruitment activities by disseminating career fair information through the USPHS website and list serves. Our committee does not, however, provide funding and materials for recruitment purposes. If you would like to attend a career fair local to you, we highly encourage your participation; however, funding, materials, and securing a space at the career fair would be the responsibility of the officer or his/her agency. This information is also available on the Career Fair Resource webpage as an interactive map and calendar here: http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG/resources_careerfairs.aspx. Please contact

Ms. Cyndia Harroway (Cyndia.Harroway@hhs.gov or 240-453-6061) for Recruitment Materials to use at Career Fairs.

- The **JOAG Recruitment and Retention Committee Transitional Assistance Program (TAPS) Subcommittee** is currently seeking volunteers for the 2013-2014 operational year.

The primary mission of the JOAG Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Subcommittee is to provide information about career opportunities with the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) to qualified active duty personnel from other uniformed services who are in the process of separation from another service. The JOAG TAP Subcommittee consists of three teams: Presentation Team, Marketing Team, and Web Team. Team members will serve a one-year term. In addition to participating in regular subcommittee and team meetings, providing updates of team activities to Subcommittee Lead(s) and assisting in completing general subcommittee tasks as needed, the roles of these teams are described below:

Presentation Team

- Identify and maintain contact with DoD installations that host TAP activities targeted towards an audience that may be interested in/qualified for a career in the USPHS.
- Develop and maintain the standard procedures on how to approach and contact the military installations.
- Schedule USPHS involvement in appropriate DoD TAP activities.
- Work collaboratively with the Marketing Team to develop appropriate USPHS recruitment materials tailored for the TAP audience.
- Schedule presentations with the Transition Assistance Officers or ACAP Transition Services Managers.
- Recruit and maintain a list of USPHS officers available to participate in TAP activities.

Marketing Team

- Supply the Presentation Team and USPHS officers participating in TAP activities with audience-appropriate USPHS recruitment materials.
- Develop and seek approval for newly developed materials through appropriate chain of command.
- Update and coordinate distribution of recruitment materials as needed and as requested by the Presentation or Web Teams.

Web Team

- Identify and update a compiled list of websites that can serve as resources for JOAG TAP Subcommittee Members.
- Coordinate the distribution of TAP-related information through audience-appropriate websites (USPHS, uniformed services, and others), in collaboration with the Presentation and Marketing Teams.
- Explore procedures to collaborate with associated organizations' webmasters to create a USPHS TAP hyperlink on their associated webpages that would direct potential USPHS applicants to the USPHS.gov webpage.

•Manage, coordinate, and submit updates of TAP subcommittee to JOAG webpage point of contact to be posted on JOAG webpage

It should be noted that JOAG R&R TAP Subcommittee members may be asked to serve across the 3 different teams described above, depending on need.

If interested, please contact LCDR Frank Hurst at: frank.hurst@fda.hhs.gov or LCDR Sukhminder Sandhu at: sukhminder.sandhu@fda.hhs.gov

- Please join the JOAG **Public Health and Community Services Committee's National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee** and the Girls on the Run Program to serve as a Running Buddy for 3rd – 8th grade girls on two occasions: April 28 or 29, 2014 and May 10, 2014.

The first run is a practice 5K at the girl's program site (a school in the Seattle, WA area) on April 28 or April 29, 2014, which will take place after school (time to be determined). The second run is the official Girls on the Run 5K, which will take place on May 10, 2014, in Magnuson Park in Seattle, WA. Check-in is at 0845 PDT.

As the program requests only female running buddies, all female officers are invited to participate. Please note that a \$25 fee is required to cover the background check and race registration, but this can be waived on a case-by-case basis.

If you would like to be a Running Buddy for Girls on the Run in the Seattle, WA area, or if you have any questions, please contact LT Stephanie Magill for instructions:

LT Stephanie Magill (USPHS/JOAG)

JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee
National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee

Stephanie.magill@cms.hhs.gov

206-615-2028

Girls on the Run Running Buddy Project (\$25 fee for background check and registration):

Location:

Practice Run: TBD

5K Run Day: Magnuson Park in Seattle, WA

7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Date and Time:

Monday or Tuesday, April 28 or 29, 2014 (depending on the school)

1530-1630 PDT

Saturday, May 10, 2014

0845 – 1030 PDT

Desired Attire: Black or blue PHS T-shirt and appropriate running attire.

- Please join the **JOAG Public Health and Community Services Committee, National Prevention Strategy Sub-Committee** and So Others Might Eat (SOME), to participate in a volunteer opportunity serving lunch to DC's homeless population on June 1, 2014.

The volunteer event will take place 1030-1315 on Sunday, June 01, 2014, at the main dining room of So Others Might Eat in Washington, DC. USPHS volunteers will help serve a hot lunch to hundreds of hungry individuals.

This project is limited to 10 volunteers. This event is open to junior officers. If the maximum number of volunteers cannot be met with junior officers, then senior officers and family members may volunteer.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact:

LT Kelly Verdin (USPHS/JOAG)

JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee

National Prevention Strategy Subcommittee

(301) 594-8128

verdink@cc.nih.gov

So Others Might Eat (no cost event):

Location:

71 O Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

Free lot parking is available. Metro access (New York Ave/Gallaudet University on the red line)

Date and Time:

Sunday, June 01, 2014

1030-1315 EST

Desired Attire: Black or blue PHS T-shirt; black PHS ball cap (no rank insignia/no blue PHS ball caps) or other ball cap (ball cap required for food service); long pants; closed toe shoes. Long hair must be restrained.

NEXT JOAG GENERAL MEETING: April 11, 2014; 1300 - 1400 EST.

Call in#: (626) 677-3000

Passcode: 7919605

*Note that this is a toll line and long distance charges may apply.

Agenda will be provided via JOAG listserv prior to the meeting.

NEXT JOAG JOURNEYMAN SPEAKER SERIES: May 9, 2014; 1300 - 1400 EST.

The Journeyman Series is a speaker series developed by the JOAG Professional Development Committee to bring relevant information to Junior Officers about Corps-related issues. For more information on Journeyman Speaker Series, visit the JOAG Website:

http://www.usphs.gov/corpslinks/JOAG/meetings_journeyman.aspx



Bureau of Prison Report to PharmPAC April 2014

Submitted by LT Michelle Williams, BOP PharmPAC Liaison

- BOP has entered into collaborative agreement with DOD to use BOP's ACPE accredited provider status to provide ACPE contact hour credit to DOD sponsored education events. In turn, BOP may participate in DOD events, allowing for expanded educational offerings.
- RADM Chris A. Bina, BOP Chief Pharmacist, gave opening remarks at National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) meeting, regarding the use of Collaborative Practice Agreements in the context of Public Health Emergency Preparedness.
- BOP Medication Assisted Therapy utilizing injectable naltrexone is being considered for a field trial for use by federal inmates considered to be at high risk for opioid dependence that are being released to Residential Reentry Centers (Half Way Houses) and home confinement.
- BOP is excited to welcome 3 Sr COSTEPs who will begin their career at their respective institutions in 2014. They are: ENS Karla Schumaci – FCC Forrest City; ENS Charles Park – FCC Victorville; and ENS Martin Newton III – FMC Lexington.



CDC Report to the USPHS PharmPAC

CDC Voting Member: [LCDR Tina Bhavsar](#)

CDC Agency Liaison: [LT Jennifer Lind](#)

April 2014 Updates

[MMWR Vital Signs: Improving Antibiotic Use among Hospitalized Patients](#) When antibiotics are prescribed incorrectly, they offer little benefit to patients and potentially expose them to risks for complications, including *Clostridium difficile* infection and antibiotic-resistant infections. This report describes a study that found that 55.7% of patients discharged from 323 hospitals in 2010 had received antibiotics during their hospitalization, but antibiotic prescribing potentially could be improved in 37.2% of the most common prescription scenarios.

[ATSDR's New Toxic Substances Web Portal](#) The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Toxic Substances Web Portal provides comprehensive access to the best science, the latest research, and important information about how toxic substances can affect health.
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ToxicSubstances/>

[CDC Grand Rounds: Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis: Tools for Tackling a New Face of an Old Foe](#) Tuberculosis is an ancient disease that remains an important global cause of morbidity and mortality. In most cases, TB can be treated and cured by taking a combination of several drugs for 6 to 12 months. When inappropriate or incomplete treatment takes place, however, TB bacteria can develop resistance to multiple drugs. Treatment of drug-resistant TB is currently longer, more toxic, more complex, and less effective than for drug-susceptible TB. The latest CDC Grand Rounds was held Tuesday, March 18, 2014 and discussed how more patients can benefit from advances in diagnostic and treatment options, resulting in an overall reduction in morbidity from MDR TB. This session also explored the role of CDC, WHO and other partners in combating this public health epidemic. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., EST where the topic will be Autism.

[CDC Launched New Treating for Two Website](#) Treating for Two is a national strategy to improve the health of mothers and babies by expanding research, evaluating evidence through expert review, and influencing clinical and pharmacy practice related to medication treatment in pregnancy. The initiative is led by the CDC National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities with collaboration from 10 federal agencies and several professional and academic groups. In partnership with CDC, the March of Dimes has initiated formative research to better understand knowledge, attitudes, and practices of women, clinicians, and pharmacists around medication use during pregnancy.



CMS Agency Report to PharmPAC

Submitted by LT Teisha A. Robertson

April 2014 Updates

Press Releases:

7.9 million people with Medicare have saved over \$9.9 billion on prescription drugs

37.2 million Medicare beneficiaries received free preventive services in 2013

On the 4th anniversary of the signing of the Affordable Care Act into law, new information released today by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that millions of seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare continue to enjoy lower costs on prescription drugs and improved benefits in 2013 thanks to the health care law.

Quality Data Added to Physician Compare Website

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that for the first time, quality measures have been added to Physician Compare, a website that helps consumers search for information about hundreds of thousands of physicians and other health care professionals. The site helps consumers make informed choices about their care.

CMS proposes 2015 payment and policy updates for Medicare Health and Drug Plans

Greater quality and value for Medicare beneficiaries and improved payment accuracy

Beneficiaries can get greater protections, value, and care in the Medicare services they receive through the proposed policies released today by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The 2015 Advance Notice and draft Call Letter takes important steps to improve payment accuracy for Medicare Advantage (Part C) for 2015. The proposed changes for 2015 are smaller than those implemented in 2014 – a year in which CMS expects to exceed its 5 percent enrollment growth projection in Medicare Advantage for 2014.

Medicare's delivery system reform initiatives achieve significant savings and quality improvements - off to a strong start

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released findings on a number of its initiatives to reform the health care delivery system. These include interim financial results for select Medicare Accountable Care Organization (ACO) initiatives, an in-depth savings analysis for Pioneer ACOs, results from the Physician Group Practice demonstration, and expanded participation in the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Initiative. Savings from both the Medicare ACOs and Pioneer ACOs exceed \$380 million.

Fact Sheets:

Medicare Care Choices Model

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services launched an initiative to develop innovative payment systems to improve care options for beneficiaries by allowing greater beneficiary access to comfort and rehabilitative care in Medicare and Medicaid. The Medicare Care Choices Model will test improvements to certain Medicare beneficiaries' quality of life while they are receiving both curative and palliative care.

CMS and Colorado Partner to Coordinate Care for Medicare-Medicaid Enrollees

On February 28, 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that the State of Colorado will partner with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to test a new model for providing Medicare-Medicaid enrollees with a more coordinated, person-centered care experience. Under the demonstration, Colorado will work with CMS to provide enhanced care coordination for over 48,000 Medicare-Medicaid enrollees in the state.



FDA Agency Report April- 2014

Submitted by: LT Sadhna Khatri

Here is a summary of recent product safety, product approvals and announcements to keep you informed about FDA issues. A brief summary of each issue and a web link to detailed information on the FDA website is included.

PRODUCT SAFETY:

HeartMate II LVAS Pocket System Controller by Thoratec Corporation: Medical Device Correction - Updated Labeling and Training Materials. March 5, 2014

Thoratec Corporation issued a safety advisory because some patients and caregivers have experienced difficulties with the process of changing from a primary system controller to their backup system controller. These difficulties have resulted in four deaths and five reports of loss of consciousness or other symptoms of hypoperfusion. [More information](#)

Doribax (doripenem): Drug Safety Communication - Risk When Used to Treat Pneumonia on Ventilated Patients. March 6, 2014

The FDA has concluded that Doribax (doripenem), an antibacterial drug used to treat patients who develop pneumonia while on ventilators, carries an increased risk of death and lower clinical cure rates compared to use of imipenem and cilastatin for injection (marketed in the U.S. under the name Primaxin). [More information](#)

Recall: DIANEAL PD-2 Peritoneal Dialysis Solution with 1.5 Percent Dextrose 6000mL - Contamination With Mold. March 6, 2014

Baxter International notified health professionals and their care organizations of the recall in the United States of a single lot of DIANEAL PD-2 Peritoneal Dialysis Solution with 1.5% Dextrose 6000ml to the hospital/user level. The recall is being initiated as a result of complaints of particulate matter, identified as mold. The affected lot is C903799, expiration 05/15 (product code L5B9710), NDC 00941-0411-11. Product affected by this recall was packaged in flexible plastic containers and distributed to dialysis centers, facilities, distributors and patients in the United States between May 2013 and January 2014. [More information](#)

Recall: Effexor XR 150 Mg Extended-Release Capsules (Pfizer) and Venlafaxine HCl 150 Mg Extended-Release Capsules (Greenstone) - Possible Presence of Tikosyn Capsules March 7, 2014

Pfizer Inc. issued a voluntary recall of one lot of 30-count Effexor XR (venlafaxine HCl) 150 mg extended-release capsules, one lot of 90-count Effexor XR (venlafaxine HCl) 150 mg

extended-release capsules, and one lot of 90-count Greenstone LLC-branded Venlafaxine HCl 150 mg extended-release capsules. [More information](#)

Other Recalls

See all recalls, market withdrawals and safety alerts [online](#)

For more important safety information on human drug and devices or to report a problem to FDA, please visit [MedWatch](#)

PRODUCT APPROVALS AND CLEARANCES:

FDA allows marketing of first medical device to prevent migraine headaches, March 11, 2014

FDA allowed marketing of Cefaly, the first preventative treatment device for migraine headaches. This is also the first transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) device specifically authorized for use prior to the onset of pain. [More information](#)

For more information on drug approvals or to view prescribing information and patient information, please visit [Drugs at FDA](#) or [DailyMed](#)

RESOURCES:

Drug shortages and discontinuations

FDA takes great efforts, within its legal authority, to address and prevent drug shortages, which can occur for many reasons, including manufacturing and quality problems, delays, and discontinuations. Shortage notifications and updates may be reported to FDA at drugshortages@fda.hhs.gov

For more information on current drug shortages please visit

[Drug Shortages Voluntarily Reported by Manufacturers During the Past 2 Weeks:](#)

- Calcium Gluconate Injection
- Chromic Chloride Injection
- Clindamycin phosphate (Cleocin) Injection
- Copper Injection
- Dexamethasone Sodium Phosphate Injection
- Dextrose Injection
- Epinephrine Injection
- Fentanyl Citrate (Sublimaze) Injection
- Heparin Sodium Injection
- Ketorolac Tromethamine Injection
- Lidocaine Hydrochloride (Xylocaine) Injection
- Lorazepam (Ativan) Injection
- Mecasermin [rDNA origin] (Increlex) Injection

- Morphine Sulfate (Astramorph PF, Duramorph, Infumorph) Injection (Preservative Free)
- Nalbuphine Hydrochloride (Nubain) Injection
- Neostigmine Methylsulfate Injection

Drug Shortages Resolved During the Past 2 Weeks:

- None

Drugs to be Discontinued Announced During Past 2 Weeks:

- Levofloxacin (Levaquin) Injection

MedWatchLearn - Practice Reporting to FDA!

This web-based learning tool teaches students, health professionals, and consumers how to complete the forms necessary to report problems to FDA. [More information](#)

FDA Basics

Each month, different Centers and Offices at FDA will host an online session where the public can ask questions to senior FDA officials about a specific topic or just listen in to learn more about FDA. [More information](#)

FDA Voice

FDA voice is the official blog from FDA's senior leadership and staff. [More information](#)

Medical Product Safety Network (Medsun)

Medsun improves FDA's understanding of problems with the use of medical devices so that the FDA, healthcare facilities, clinicians, and manufacturers can better address safety concerns. The Medsun newsletter provides monthly updates about timely medical device issues that may impact patient safety. [More information](#)

CONSUMER UPDATES:

Problems with Tobacco Products? Tell the FDA. Feb 4, 2014

The FDA wants to hear from you and has a new online tool you can use to report your problem. The Department of Health and Human Services' [Safety Reporting Portal](#) (SRP) has been revised to add a new category for tobacco products. This update provides a standardized way for consumers and health care professionals to let FDA know when they suspect that there is an unexpected health or safety issue with a specific tobacco product. [More information](#)

Free Resources Help People Stick to Their Prescriptions

More than 125,000 Americans die each year from not taking their medications properly. Many others experience worsening chronic health conditions because of it. With free educational tools from the Food and Drug Administration and the Script Your Future Campaign, you can help the people in your community keep track of their prescriptions and when to take them. And you can help them learn to talk with their pharmacist about the concerns or questions that might be keeping them from taking their medications as prescribed.

Don't miss out — order your free resources in bulk today to share with your community.

Please visit Consumer Updates for more information.

PharmPAC IHS Liaison Report
Indian Health Service National Pharmacy Council
April 2014

Submitted by CDR Wil Darwin, PharmD CDE, IHS National Pharmacy Council Chair (3/10/2014)

○ **National CMOP (Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy) Coordinator Quarterly Report**

- 78 IHS/Tribal sites have been set up in RPMS to utilize CMOP
- Western Oregon (Chemawa) began actively transmitting Rx's to CMOP in November 2013.
- A CMOP Agreement between the Navajo Area and the VA was signed in December 2013.
- Northern Navajo Medical Center (Shiprock) began actively transmitting Rx's to CMOP in January 2014
- Lower Brule, SD began actively transmitting Rx's to CMOP in February 2014
- 32,651 IHS Rx's were transmitted to the CMOP in February 2014
- 94,800 Rx's (all IHS sites) were transmitted to the CMOP in the 1st QTR FY2014
- Over 579,000 Rx's (all IHS sites) have now been transmitted to the CMOP through February 2014 (since IHS started sending Rx's in June 2010)
- A replacement for former VA-IHS National CMOP Coordinator, CAPT Pam Schweitzer, has not yet been detailed into this position by IHS Headquarters (MOU's are still going through the signature process). This position has been vacant since February 2013 and is slowing the implementation of CMOP at additional IHS sites.
- Agreements still need to be finalized at the IHS Headquarters level which will allow Tribal facilities to participate in CMOP.

○ **National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Credentialing Coordinator Quarterly Report**

- Pharmacists practicing within the USPHS and IHS systems are widely known for their innovative practice of pharmacy and expanded clinical roles, including provision of primary care services and disease state management. With this advanced level of clinical care provided through local practice agreements, it is important to establish best practices, promote uniformity among certification, document outcomes, and explore appropriate reimbursement for services. National Clinical Pharmacy Specialist (NCPS) certification is intended to uniformly recognize an advanced scope of practice aimed at managing one or more disease states and/or optimizing specific drug therapy after completing local policy approval and credentialing requirements. The committee evaluates and certifies each program's collaborative practice agreements (CPAs) for best practices as well as application requirements for pharmacists to be certified as providers within these services. NCPS certification is strongly recommended to serve as a base standard for local credentialing of pharmacists for this advanced scope of clinical care in disease state management within the I/T/U health systems.
-

Total NCPS certifications	Total NCPS Pharmacists	Total Active NCPS certifications	Total Active NCPS Pharmacists
579	413	433	301

○ **National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee Quarterly Report**

- The IHS National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee (NPTC) held its winter meeting February 4-5, 2014. Representatives from all twelve of the IHS Areas were in attendance for this meeting. Eleven members attended the live meeting and 1 member joined via teleconference. Dr. Ann Bullock, Chief Clinical Consultant, Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention provided a discussion related to the 2013 ACC/AHA cholesterol guidelines and the 2014 Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes via teleconference. Dr. Dena Wilson of the Native American Cardiology Program provided pre-meeting consultation regarding atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) risk factor evaluation. The DoD-PEC provided updates related to the various upcoming meeting topics and class reviews. The VA provided specific insight on how the VA formulary relates to several NPTC discussions. The NPTC continues to appreciate the relationships with experts from the field and with other government agencies. Additionally, the committee appreciated the opportunity to hold its meeting at the HHS building in Dallas, TX.
- This meeting had discussions on a variety of topics which included: the treatment of blood cholesterol with statins and nonstatins, management of overweight and obese adults with weight loss medications, a review of the sodium glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors canagliflozin and dapagliflozin, and the adverse events associated with long-term use of proton pump inhibitors.

○ **2014 National Combined Council (NCC) face-to-face Meeting**

- Tentative dates: April 2014 in Phoenix. The Conference Approval Request has been submitted to the department for approval and works have started with the HQ Acquisition section.
- Agenda
 - Face-to-Face NPC meeting blocks have been identified
 - NPC meets with the IHS Director to discuss Two Talking Points
 - NPC to put together a Summary Year-End Report for Dr. Karol and HQ Leadership.

○ **Pharmacy Continuing Education Monthly Webinar series**

- The Pharmacy Last Wednesday of the month Webinar series successfully launched this last week. Registration for the series can be found at the CSC website www.ihs.gov/csc on the Event Calendar page. Recordings of prior sessions are available on the Recorded Sessions page. The recorded sessions are available for continuing education until the week of the next live webinar.

○ **Medication Reconciliation/Synchronization**

- Workgroup members: LCDR Tyler Lannoye (Lead), CDR Michael Contos, CDR Cecil Aycock, CDR Chris Lamer & CDR Wil Darwin.
- Action steps:
 - Develop a Best Practice Standards for the Med Recon processes
 - Workgroup will review concepts of medication reconciliation vs comprehensive medication review.
- EHR Pharmacy Documentation:
 - Workgroup members: CDR Chris Lamer (Lead), CDR Traci Patten, LCDR Adams Solola, CAPT Sheri Yoder, LCDR Julie King, & Nicholas Sparrow
 - Action steps:
 - Develop Best Practice Standards for the EHR Pharmacy Documentation processes (a How To Document)
 - SNOMED-CT: A number of documentation processes will change once our technologies move to SNOMED.
 - A draft document will be created and sent to PSG for their review.
- Resource Requirements Methodology (RRM) Workgroup
 - Workgroup consists of CDR Michael Contos (lead), LCDR Adams Solola, CDR Brandon Taylor, CDR Michael Lee, LCDR Mark Black, CDR Robin Bartlett, & CDR Tracie Patten.
 - Draft Proposal Pharmacy Staffing Model assumptions were reviewed and discussed.
 - Action Plan: The proposed 2014 Pharmacy Staff Model was reviewed by NPC to delineate and substantiate the proposal for endorsement. The 2014 Pharmacy Staffing Model was approved.
- 2014 IHS Southwestern Regional Pharmacy CE Meeting (the Quad)
 - Approved dates: Quad, April 11-13 in Scottsdale, AZ. The Conference Approval Request is approved. Online registration and agendas was released.

NIH opens research hospital to outside scientists

New program tackles disease on many fronts

Ten projects that will enable non-government researchers to conduct clinical research at the National Institutes of Health's Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md. were announced today. Through these three-year, renewable awards of up to \$500,000 per year, scientists from institutions across the United States will collaborate with government scientists in a highly specialized hospital setting. The NIH Clinical Center is the largest hospital in the nation devoted entirely to clinical research.

"This initiative will provide top scientists outside NIH the opportunity to utilize the sizable resources of our clinical center," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. "The collaborative process they undertake with researchers here on campus will set a framework for important biomedical discoveries and needed treatments."

NIH funds scientists outside of its organization, called extramural researchers, and government scientists who work for NIH directly, called intramural researchers. Although intramural scientists often collaborate with scientists outside the NIH campus, the new grants now will provide extramural researchers from academia and industry with direct access to the broad resources of the NIH Clinical Center. Outside scientists will be able to test promising laboratory discoveries using emerging technologies and tools and collaborate on clinical protocols, often for extraordinarily rare diseases, in partnership with NIH investigators to help advance disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention.

"We are very excited about opening the doors of the Clinical Center to our extramural colleagues who will bring additional cutting-edge research projects and new partnerships that will enrich ongoing efforts translating scientific discovery into tomorrow's cures at the Clinical Center and in partnering institutions around the country," said John I. Gallin, M.D., director of the NIH Clinical Center.

To view the entire article, go to: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nichd-13.htm>

3-D changes in DNA may lead to a genetic form of Lou Gehrig's disease

New findings reveal how a mutation, a change in the genetic code that causes neurodegeneration, alters the shape of DNA, making cells more vulnerable to stress and more likely to die.

The particular mutation, in the C9orf72 gene, is the most common cause for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease), and frontotemporal degeneration (FTD), the second most common type of dementia in people under 65.

This research by Jiou Wang, Ph.D., and his colleagues at Johns Hopkins University (JHU) was published in *Nature* and was partially funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

In ALS, the muscle-activating neurons in the spinal cord die, eventually causing paralysis. In FTD neurons in particular brain areas die leading to progressive loss of cognitive abilities. The mutation may also be associated with Alzheimer's and Huntington's diseases.

To view the entire article, go to: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/ninds-05.htm>

High plasticizer levels in males linked to delayed pregnancy for female partners

Women whose male partners have high concentrations of three common forms of phthalates, chemicals found in a wide range of consumer products, take longer to become pregnant than women in couples in which the male does not have high concentrations of the chemicals, according to researchers at the National Institutes of Health and other institutions.

The researchers assessed the concentrations of phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) in couples trying to achieve pregnancy. Phthalates, sometimes known as plasticizers, are used in the manufacture of plastics, to make them more flexible. BPA is also used in plastics, including in some food and drink packaging.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, phthalates are used in hundreds of products (PDF - 176KB), such as fragrances, shampoos, nail polish, plastic film and sheets. For the most part, people are exposed to phthalates by eating and drinking foods that have been in contact with containers and products containing the compounds. BPA is used to make some types of plastic containers, in the protective lining of food cans, and other products. The study authors measured urine concentrations of BPA and 14 phthalate compounds in couples trying to achieve pregnancy. The study authors explained that many phthalates are often broken down and chemically changed before they are excreted from the body.

To view the entire article, go to: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nichd-05.htm>

Researchers discover underlying genetics, marker for stroke, cardiovascular disease

NIH-funded findings point to new potential strategies for disease prevention, treatment

Scientists studying the genomes of nearly 5,000 people have pinpointed a genetic variant tied to an increased risk for stroke, and have also uncovered new details about an important metabolic pathway that plays a major role in several common diseases. Together, their findings may provide new clues to underlying genetic and biochemical influences in the development of stroke and cardiovascular disease, and may also help lead to new treatment strategies.

“Our findings have the potential to identify new targets in the prevention and treatment of stroke, cardiovascular disease and many other common diseases,” said Stephen R. Williams, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia Cardiovascular Research Center and the University of Virginia Center for Public Health Genomics, Charlottesville.

Dr. Williams, Michele Sale, Ph.D., associate professor of medicine, Brad Worrall, M.D., professor of neurology and public health sciences, all at the University of Virginia, and their team reported their findings March 20, 2014 in PLoS Genetics. The investigators were supported by the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) Genomics and Randomized Trials Network (GARNET) program.

To view the entire article, go to: <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/mar2014/nhgri-20.htm>



PharmPAC USCG Liaison Report April 2014

Submitted by LCDR Paul T. Michaud, PharmD, NCPS

- **Epic Rollout and Implementation**
 - The electronic health record rollout continues with administrative input increasing over the past few months. At this time the estimation for pilot rollout is late July or August.
 - Some of the testing phases are scheduled to start in early April, and will include the pharmacy and inventory modules.
 - Due to the fluid nature of the project, dates are tentative but progress is occurring.
- **Strategic National Stockpile Medications Maintained by the USCG**
 - A COMDTINST pertaining to SNS medications and closed POD's has been drafted and is going through the approval process.
 - An agreement has been created between the USCG and the territory of Puerto Rico and Louisiana and both are awaiting signatures.
 - Agreements were created and finalized between the USCG and Pinellas County, FL and Pasquotank, NC.
- **Upcoming Events and Meetings**
 - The Acting Surgeon General and Acting Assistant Surgeon General will be meeting at USCG Headquarters on April 9th, 2014 10:30-11:30am to present the campaign "Every Body Walk". The presentation will be immediately followed by a walk around the USCG Headquarters campus, so bring your walking shoes. If you are interested in attending, coordinate your participation with CDR Aaron Middlekauff well in advance as security clearance to access the campus and parking to USCG Headquarters is required.
 - A small group of USCG Pharmacist's will be attending the spring APhA Convention in Orlando and some of them will be involved with educational sessions.



Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Secretary (OS)
March 2014 OS Agency Report
Submitted by CDR Samuel Wu

About the Office of the Secretary: The Office of the Secretary (OS) provides leadership through several offices that oversee operations, provides guidance, and ensures that funds are spent wisely and laws are followed fairly. The OS is directly supported by the Deputy Secretary, Chief of Staff, a number of Assistant Secretaries, Offices, and Operating Divisions. Currently, there are 16 Staff Divisions (OASH, ASPR, ASPE, OCR, OMH etc.) and 11 Operating Divisions (FDA, NIH, CDC, HRSA, IHS, etc.) that report to the Secretary.¹ In addition, there are 10 regional offices that are responsible for operations at the local level and advising the Secretary about strategic operational activities related to program implementation.²

Updates:

1. On April 3, 2014 at 4 PM, the Congressional Hepatitis Caucus will be hosting a briefing and a reception to launch the release of HHS' *2014 Action Plan for the Prevention, Care & Treatment of Viral Hepatitis*. Senior officials from HHS have been invited to speak at this event. To RSVP for this event, please contact Kelly.Honda@mail.house.gov.

¹ <http://www.hhs.gov/about/orgchart/index.html#text>

² <http://www.hhs.gov/iea/regional/index.html>

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Shannon Hill

Website: www.amcp.org/home

AMCP Professional Practice:

The AMCP is a professional association of Pharmacists, which emphasizes the use of managed care in pharmacy practice. AMCP's mission is to empower members to serve society by providing opportunities for continued professional growth through advancing individual and collective knowledge. Provision of the best available pharmaceutical care is their simple goal.

AMCP Public Policy:

NTR

Organization contact(s):

Mary Jo Carden, RPh, JD
100 North Pitt Street, Suite 400
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.684.2603

Date:

April 2014

Announcements:

AMCP's 26th Annual Meeting and Expo will be held April 1-4, 2014 in Tampa, Florida. Register at www.amcpmeetings.org. One of the keynote speakers is Scott Gottlieb, M.D., a practicing physician and former Deputy Commissioner at the FDA. He is expected to speak about the Affordable Care Act.

News:

NTR

American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM)

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Robert Macky

Website: <http://www.aahivm.org/>

AAHIVM Professional Practice:

The American Academy of HIV Medicine is an independent organization of AAHIVM HIV Specialists and others dedicated to promoting excellence in HIV/AIDS care. Through advocacy and education, the Academy is committed to supporting health care providers in HIV medicine and to ensuring better care for those living with AIDS and HIV disease.

AAHIVM Public Policy:

The American Academy of HIV Medicine is an independent organization of AAHIVM HIV Specialists and others dedicated to promoting excellence in HIV/AIDS care. Through advocacy and education, the Academy is committed to supporting health care providers in HIV medicine and to ensuring better care for those living with AIDS and HIV disease.

Organization contact(s):

Amber McCracken Director, Communications and Marketing

Ken South Director, Credentialing

Date: 4/3/14

Announcements:

Seeking HIV & Aging Case Studies. Do you have a compelling case study for treating an older HIV patient? We'd like to hear from you. AAHIVM,ACRIA, and the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) recently launched HIV-Age.org, the GO-TO online site for clinicians seeking best practices for managing the care of older HIV patients. HIV-Age.org includes editorials by leading clinicians, researchers and thought-leaders in the field, scientific spotlight articles on the latest research and treatment options, useful medical and government resources and links, and thought-provoking case studies. Accordingly, if you have an interesting case study, we would like to hear from you! Please email any case studies or questions to Ken South at ken@aahivm.org.

New data and resources on PrEP available at the AAHIVM website

In March 2014, the International Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) held in Boston, Massachusetts, released a number of new studies and data on PrEP. AAHIVM has listed the all on the PrEP page our we website for your reference.

Antiretroviral Treatment Update: A Live National Webcast

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Program Goal

To enable the learner to have the most recent information about antiretroviral treatment options

Learning Objectives

- * Describe the HIV Continuum of Care Cascade and the importance of diagnosis, linkage, retention and adherence.
- * Review the HIV therapeutic classes and how they are used in combination.
- * Discuss recent updates to the Department of Health and Human Services Treatment Guidelines for antiretroviral therapy.
- * Analyze a clinical scenario of a patient on antiretroviral therapy.

<http://www.amc.edu/Patient/services/HIVConference/regBroadcast.html>

New Content on Enteropathy and HIV Now Available on AAHIVM Website

Highlighted Research Shows Results in HIV Patients with Enteropathy

Enteropathy is frequently found in association with several human disease conditions, including HIV infection, and is caused by pathological changes in the lining of the intestinal tract. A new webpage has been developed in the Clinical Topic Library to help educate providers on this issue and highlights recent research into treatment, including a new study that found that a prescription medical food product may help manage the condition and increase intestinal CD4+ cell counts in patients with HIV-related chronic loose or frequent stools.

Highlights from the recent clinical study include:

- Increased CD4+ counts in the gut
- Management of GI symptoms
- Management of chronic loose and frequent stools
- Improved nutrient uptake

<http://www.aahivm.org/enteropathy>

News:

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)

Liaison Officer's Report by CAPT Louis Flowers

Website: www.aacp.org

AACP Professional Practice:

Founded in 1900, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) is the national organization representing pharmacy education in the United States.

The mission of AACP is to lead and partner with our members in advancing pharmacy education, research, scholarship, practice and service to improve societal health.

AACP is comprised of all accredited colleges and schools with pharmacy degree programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, including more than 6,400 faculties, 60,000 students enrolled in professional programs and 5,100 individuals pursuing graduate study.

AACP Public Policy:

AACP conducts a wide variety of programs and activities in cooperation with a number of other national health and higher education associations in the Washington, D.C. area. Many Association activities are concerned with higher education issues. Some relate only to concerns of the profession while others relate to the broad community of all health professions

Organization contact(s):

Luinda L. Maine, Ph.D., R.Ph.
Executive Vice President & CEO
lmaine@aacp.org

Date: May 1 – 2, 2014

Announcements:

The Institute of Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education will be webcasting its next workshop on Scaling up Best Practices in Community-based Health Professional Education on **May 1-2**. This workshop aims to provide a framework for understanding the responsibilities of health professions, institutions and students to the communities they serve. For registration and agenda information, please visit: <http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Global/InnovationHealthProfEducation/2014-MAY-01.aspx>.

American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP)

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Jill Reid

Website: www.accp.com/

ACCP Professional Practice:

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy (ACCP) is a professional and scientific society that provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources enabling clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in practice and research.

ACCP Public Policy:

The American College of Clinical Pharmacy's purpose is to advance human health by extending the frontiers of clinical pharmacy. It does this through strategic initiatives, partnerships, collaborations, and alliances to provide leadership, professional development, advocacy and resources that enable clinical pharmacists to achieve excellence in practice, research, and education. ACCP advances clinical pharmacy and pharmacotherapy through support and promotion of research, training, and education. It promotes innovative science, develops successful models of practice, and disseminates new knowledge to advance pharmacotherapy and patient care.

Organization contact(s):

C. Edwin Webb, PharmD, MPH
Director, Government and Professional Affairs, ACCP
(202)621-1820
ewebb@accp.com

Date:

March 26, 2014

Announcements:

ACCP Releases Standards of Practice for Clinical Pharmacists

In March, the ACCP released a pre-publication draft of the *Standards*. Later this year, they will be published in *Pharmacotherapy*. The *Standards* are an extension of previous ACCP papers addressing the [definition of clinical pharmacy](#), [clinical pharmacist competencies](#), and [desired qualifications of clinical pharmacists who provide direct patient care](#). This document is intended to fully inform the public, other health professionals, and policy-makers concerning what they can and should expect from the practice of clinical pharmacists. They also address the clinical pharmacist's involvement in collaborative, team-based practice and privileging; maintenance of competence and professional development; professionalism and ethics; research and scholarship; and other professional responsibilities.

See http://www.accp.com/docs/positions/guidelines/Stndrds_of_Prac_for_CP_Final_PPI.pdf for the pre-publication draft.

PSAP-VII and Audio Companion Special

This is a great way to earn some CE *and* prepare for the BCPS exam. The Pharmacotherapy Self-Assessment Program, seventh edition (PSAP-VII), released 11 books between 2010 and 2012. Now, all 11 books in this acclaimed home-study series—many of which still carry available continuing pharmacy education (CPE) credit—have been clearance priced. The PSAP-VII books encompass 15 therapeutic areas selected from the Pharmacotherapy Specialist Content Outline. Each book is a ready reference tool for individual pharmacists and a source of exceptional

therapeutic content for staff development. Emphasis is placed on sharpening clinical knowledge and skills by integrating new drug therapy knowledge into practice. Case-based self-assessment questions at the end of each chapter may be used to obtain CPE credit. All testing takes place online at the ACCP Web site. For more information and clearance prices see <http://www.accp.com/031412>

Students: Prepare for the 2015, 2016, or 2017 Residency Match Now!

Great information to share with your students doing rotations at your facilities. Special live program offered April 12–13 for first-, second-, and third-year students who plan to pursue residency training. See <http://www.accp.com/031405> for more information.

News:

Special *Washington Report*. The PAPCC, H.R. 4190, and ACCP

As you may be aware of, recently a group of national pharmacy associations, chain drug stores, and other interested stakeholders announced the launch of a new coalition, the Patient Access to Pharmacists' Care Coalition (PAPCC), to develop and enact legislation that would grant pharmacists provider status under Medicare Part B. On March 11, through this coalition's efforts, House of Representatives sponsors introduced [legislation that would enable patient access to, and payment for, Medicare Part B services](#) by state-licensed pharmacists in medically underserved communities (H.R. 4190). This column details ACCP's perspectives regarding the coalition's efforts and addresses questions raised by ACCP members regarding the College's absence from this newly established group: <http://www.accp.com/031406>

Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS) **AKA The Society of Federal Health Professionals**

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Thomas E. Addison

Website: www.amsus.org

AMSUS Mission Statement

AMSUS advances the knowledge of federal healthcare and increases the effectiveness and efficiency of its membership by mutual association and by the consideration of matters pertaining to constituent services both in peace and war. AMSUS is dedicated to the fulfillment of the following purposes:

- Improve the effectiveness, cohesiveness and esprit de corps of the federal healthcare services.
- Improve healthcare by providing a forum for discussion of ideas and problems whether on a local, national, or international level and by providing continuing education for its members.
- Contribute to the improvement of healthcare in the nation through policy study and recommendations.
- Represent the Association to the Executive and Legislative Branches, to national professional organizations and to the public.

AMSUS Vision Statement

AMSUS is the premier association supporting and representing military and other federal healthcare professionals.

Organization Contact(s)

Lori Lawrence Continuing Education Program Manager
9320 Old Georgetown Rd Bethesda, MD 20814-1653
(301) 897-8800/(800) 761-9320

lori.lawrence@amsus.org

March 2014

Action Items

1. Annual Continuing Education Meeting December 2-5 2014 in Washington, DC.
2. Abstracts for the Annual Continuing Education Meeting will be accepted through May 5, 2014. Papers including evidence-based research and developments in: global health, health technologies, health education and training, disease management and population health, mental health, clinical, and operations/logistics.

Accomplishments

1. Louise Strayer and Dr. Mary Gilles (Southern Arizona VA Health Care System) have volunteered to be the lead instructors for the Basic Tobacco Intervention Skills Certification for Medical and Allied Professionals.
2. CDR Thomas Addison, CDR Velliyah Craig, And CDR Megan Wohr talked with Executive Director VADM Mike Cowan (Ret.) and Deputy Executive Director CDR John Class (Ret.) about planning for the certification.

AMSUS SmartBrief

3/5/14

1. Meet face-to-face with key professionals from federal medical departments and health agencies at the [AMSUS Annual Continuing Health Education Meeting](#) this December in Washington, D.C.! Attendees include medical center commanders, hospital staff directors, chiefs of professional services, physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, veterinarians, medical administrators, optometrists, health care technologists and health care technicians.

Contact: jeanette.naiman@amsus.org.

2. Journal articles are free to AMSUS members and subscribers who have [registered](#) and subscribed to access over 100 issues of Military Medicine journals online. [Subscription rates](#) and [membership eligibility](#) are available on the AMSUS website.

3/12/14

1. Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has recalled 2,528 bottles of its metformin hydrochloride extended release tablets following a complaint indicating the presence of the seizure drug gabapentin in a bottle. Ranbaxy Laboratories has issued a recall of 64,626 bottles of its generic atorvastatin after a pharmacist reported seeing a 20-mg pill in a sealed 10-mg bottle.

2. A data analysis of more than 1.7 million military veterans in the U.S. found that those who took the antibiotics azithromycin or levofloxacin had a higher risk of serious cardiac arrhythmia and death during standard lengths of prescription compared with those who took amoxicillin. The absolute risks of death linked to azithromycin and levofloxacin use, however, were relatively low, according to the study published in Annals of Family Medicine.

3/26/14

1. The Navy is looking into ending tobacco sales at Navy and Marine Corps exchange stores as part of an effort to improve fitness among service members. Also under consideration are similar bans overseas, in combat-zone bases and in ship stores. The ban could take effect as soon as Oct. 1.

2. Proposed legislation that would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to use a strict protocol when buying and tracking biological materials has the support of the American Association of Tissue Banks, but the organization's CEO wants the VA to only use sources with AATB accreditation. Lawmakers and veterans groups have called for more accountability from the VA in purchasing biologic products, which are used in medical and dental procedures.

American Pharmacist Association (APhA)
Liaison Officer's Report by LCDR Khang D. Ngo
and LCDR James S. Dvorsky

Website: www.pharmacist.com

APhA Professional Practice:

Founded in 1852, APhA is the largest association of pharmacists in the United States, with more than 62,000 practicing pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians as members. APhA is the organization whose members are recognized in society as essential in all patient care settings for optimal medication use that improves health, wellness, and quality of life.

APhA Public Policy:

To empower its members to improve medication use and advance patient care by:

- Providing timely and accurate information that is vital to our members.
- Raising societal awareness about the role of pharmacists as essential in patient care for optimal medication use.
- Providing state-of-the art resources to enhance our members' continuing professional development.
- Educating and influencing legislators, policy makers, regulators, and the public to advance our vision and mission.
- Creating unique opportunities for our members to connect and share with their peers across practice settings.

Organization contact:

Stacia Spridgen, PharmD, Director, Federal Pharmacy Program

sspridgen@aphanet.org

Date: April 2014

News:

Provider Status Coalition

- APhA has joined the Patient Access to Pharmacists' Care Coalition (PAPCC), which will lead the push for a federal legislative proposal to enable patient access to, and reimbursement for, Medicare Part B services by state-licensed pharmacists in medically underserved communities and consistent with state scope of practice. Currently, there are twenty-two coalition members, including pharmacy associations, pharmacy chains, and other stakeholders.
- The PAPCC was able to introduce a bill in the House of Representatives on March 11, 2014 to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of pharmacists' patient care services (H.R. 4190).
- If enacted, the legislation would require Medicare to cover pharmacists' patient care services that the licensed pharmacist is legally authorized to perform in the state, that would otherwise be covered if furnished by a physician or incident to a physician's service, and when provided in a health professional shortage area, in a medically underserved area, or for a medically underserved population.
- The proposed legislation also would require Medicare to pay pharmacists 80% of the actual charge or 85% of the physician fee schedule amount.

- The effective date for Medicare to start covering pharmacists' patient care services would be January 1, 2015. The bill would further require the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services to develop pharmacist-specific codes, as necessary, under the physician fee schedule.

Part D Expansion

- On March 5th, APhA joined a joint letter to CMS expressing pharmacists' support for the expansion of Medication Therapy Management (MTM) in the Contract Year 2015 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs Proposed Rule.
- In particular, the signatories noted that while they support the expanded eligibility criteria included in the Proposed Rule, to make the expansion successful, service parameters including an emphasis on pharmacist-led MTM, should be considered. In addition to APhA, seven other organizations signed the letter.

Announcements:

APhA Annual Meeting

- APhA's Annual Meeting and Exposition will be taking place March 28-31, 2014 in Orlando Florida. This meeting will highlight the power and promise of pharmacy practice.

APhA Awards

- CAPT Pamela M. Schweitzer, PharmD, BCACP has been selected as the recipient of the 2014 Distinguished Federal Pharmacist Award for her dedicated service to federal pharmacy and her work with the Indian Health Service.
 - This Award recognizes pharmacists who distinguish themselves and the profession through outstanding contributions in federal pharmacy practice resulting in significant improvements in the health of the nation and the populations they serve.
 - Over the course of her career, CAPT Pamela Schweitzer has served in varied assignments, progressing in leadership responsibilities within the Indian Health Service (IHS), Veterans Administration (VA) and currently with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- LT Carlisha Gentles, PharmD, BCPS was recognized as Honorable Mention, Individual Practitioner for the 2014 Immunization Champion Award.
 - Nominees were evaluated based on the areas of impact, collaboration, originality, overcoming challenges and opportunities created for pharmacists. These awards highlight contributions to the immunization neighborhood by pharmacists, pharmacy technicians and pharmacies.
 - In 2013, LT Carlisha Gentles established the first pharmacist-led zoster vaccination program at Tsaile Health Center in Arizona. By December 2013, LT

Gentles and her fellow pharmacist, Terry Teller, had successfully vaccinated 150 patients. A year-end financial review indicated that her facility was successfully reimbursed for pharmacist immunization services in 2013 and is expected to administer approximately 400 zoster vaccines by July 2014.

American Public Health Association (APHA)

Liaison Officer's Report by LCDR Liatte Krueger

Website: <http://www.apha.org/>

Overview:

APHA represents a broad array of health officials, educators, environmentalists, policy-makers and other health providers at all levels, working both within and outside governmental organizations and education institutions. Issues of concern that APHA actively advocates for include those affecting personal and environmental health, including federal and state funding for health programs, pollution control, programs and policies related to chronic and infectious diseases, a smoke-free society, professional education in public health and health education and consumer education material.

APHA Sections: (<http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/>)

There are [29 primary Sections](#) that represent major public health disciplines or public health programs. These sections are designed to allow members with shared interests to come together to develop scientific program content, policy papers in their areas of interest or fields of practice, provide for professional and social networking, career development and mentoring. Sections serve as the primary professional units of the Association and conduct activities that promote the mission and fulfill the goals of APHA. Sections create a variety of opportunities for member involvement.

APHA Special Primary Interest Groups (<http://www.apha.org/membergroups/primary/>)

APHA defines a Special Primary Interest Group (SPIG) as an open group of self-selected APHA members sharing a common occupational discipline or program area interest and electing no primary Section affiliation. The current list of APHA SPIGs are: Alternative & Complementary Health Practices, Ethics, Laboratory, and Veterinary Public Health.

Organization contact(s):

Staff contact for Membership: Membership Department (membership.mail@apha.org)

Staff contact for Sections, Special Primary Interest Groups, Student Assembly, Forums and

Caucuses: Frank Atkinson (Frances.Atkinson@apha.org), Lavanya Gupta

(Lavanya.Gupta@apha.org), and Nathan Bhatti (Nathan.Bhatti@apha.org)

Date:

4/3/14

Announcements:

*** Please note that some links may not be available to non-APHA members.**

Sign APHA's petition: Ask pharmacies to stop selling tobacco

Tobacco is the only product that, when used as directed, kills. Every year, more than 480,000 Americans die, millions more get sick and health care and related costs reach more than \$289 billion due to tobacco use. Target, Wegmans and most recently CVS Caremark have all done the right thing – they removed tobacco from their shelves. We applaud their courage and believe that together we can build on this momentum. APHA is asking all pharmacies and retailers in the business of wellness to put their customers' health ahead of profits from tobacco. Join us. [Sign APHA's petition](#): No tobacco sales in stores with pharmacies and clinics.

Get involved: National Public Health Week 2014

Beginning April 7, APHA invites you to promote ways to live healthier lives and highlight the theme “Public Health: Start Here.” To kick off NPHW, APHA will host a forum to kick off a nationwide discussion on “[Creating the Healthiest Nation Through System Transformation](#)” on **Monday, April 7**, at 1 pm EDT. The event will feature a panel discussion on how the public health community can work in tandem with traditional and nontraditional partners to champion health for all and implement strategies to close the gap on health disparities.

A Public Health Approach to Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention

Join APHA and CDC’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control for [a dynamic panel presentation](#) discussing the importance of prescription drug overdose prevention. Hosted by Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, the live presentation will take place **Tuesday, April 8**. Viewers will be able to log in the day of the event.

Leading health indicators webinar

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and APHA will cosponsor a webinar on the [leading health indicators on Tuesday, April 8, at 2 p.m. EDT](#). Join us to learn about progress in improving the leading health indicators, which are key components of the Healthy People 2020 initiative. The webinar will feature HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Howard Koh, MD, MPH, and APHA Executive Director Georges Benjamin, MD. We will also hear from a state agency that has incorporated the indicators into its state health improvement plans.

NPHW contest: Share your starting lines

APHA invites you to promote events that you are hosting or participating in through media outreach and social media venues. The goal is to promote essential, grassroots activities focused on public health system transformation. Whether you arrange an interview with your local television or radio station, create a video or capture pictures via Instagram, we want to hear about it! To learn more or to download contest guidelines, visit the [NPHW website](#).

2014 Call for APHA awards nominations

The APHA is now accepting nominations for its 2014 awards program. Nominate a colleague who exemplifies outstanding professionalism, dedication and contributions in the field of public health. Membership is not required for nomination to several of APHA’s national awards. The awards will be presented at APHA’s 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition, Nov. 15-19, 2014 in New Orleans.

The deadline for nominations is April 25. Awards description criteria and nomination forms are available at www.apha.org/about/awards. For more information, contact deborah.dillard@apha.org or 202-777-2442.

Awards are listed below:

[Sedgwick Memorial Medal](#) – recognizes an individual for outstanding accomplishments in the field of public health and is APHA’s oldest and most prestigious honor

[APHA Award for Excellence](#) – honors a living individual for creative work in applying scientific knowledge or innovation to improve community health

[David P. Rall Award for Advocacy in Public Health](#) – recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to public health through science-based advocacy

[Martha May Eliot Award](#) – honors a professional worker in the field of maternal and child health

[Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health](#) – honors a health officer of a county, city or other unit of local government in recognition of outstanding creative and innovative public health

work

Helen Rodriguez-Trias Social Justice Award – recognizes an individual who has worked toward social justice for underserved and disadvantaged populations

Sidel-Levy Award for Peace – is presented to an APHA member who has made outstanding contributions to preventing war and promoting international peace

Jay S. Drotman Memorial Award – recognizes the career of a promising young public health professional or student

Student Assembly Public Health Mentoring Award – recognizes an APHA member for his or her essential role of mentoring in public health and leadership development

Opportunities:

APHA's 2014 Get Ready Scholarship: Submissions now open!

To raise awareness about preparedness, APHA is offering its sixth annual Get Ready Scholarship. The scholarship is a component of APHA's Get Ready campaign, which works to help Americans prepare themselves, their families and their communities for a range of emergencies – from floods to disease outbreaks. The scholarship, open to both high school and college students, is designed to encourage them to focus on the importance of emergency preparedness. This year, depending on education level, applicants will submit a blog entry, campaign plan or infographic. Winners will receive one \$400 scholarship each to be used to pay for direct school costs. For more information on the campaign or preparedness, visit the [Get Ready website](#).



Call for applications – APHA IVP Program and Policy Evaluation Institute

APHA has partnered with the Safe States Alliance to host an Injury and Violence Prevention Program and Policy Evaluation Institute. We are seeking state teams to attend this three-day, 16 training hour evaluation workshop designed to help evaluation teams develop an outcome or impact evaluation plan for a program or policy within their state. The workshop will take place May 18-20 in Atlanta. View the [application](#) online and send any questions to [Ina Allicott](#), evaluation and technical assistance coordinator at the Safe States Alliance. Applications must be received by April 4.

Lifesavers Conference Student Scholarships & Poster Opportunity

A limited number of scholarships are available to assist undergraduate and graduate students interested in a career in traffic safety, injury/prevention/public health, criminal justice, engineering, public policy or planning attend the 2014 Lifesavers National Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, the premiere gathering of traffic safety professionals in the nation which will take place April 27-29, 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee. If you know of a student who would benefit from this opportunity, please encourage him or her to apply. Or if you and/or your organization works with colleges or universities that are training students in one or more of these disciplines, please pass this information along to the appropriate dean and/or department chair. The application is available on line at <http://www.lifesaversconference.org/forms/LS2014studentscholarshipapplication.pdf> and takes just a few minutes to complete.

In addition to applying for a scholarship to attend the Lifesavers Conference, undergraduate and graduate students are also encouraged to submit a poster detailing an innovative or creative approach to addressing highway safety or injury prevention through an education or research-based initiative

(submissions are welcome from academicians at institutions of higher learning, too). Details regarding the poster application process and criteria are also available online at <http://www.lifesaversconference.org/posters.html>.

If you'd like to learn more about the Lifesavers Conference, be sure to visit www.lifesaversconference.org. There you'll find information about registering, hotel reservations, the schedule (80 plus workshops and plenary sessions will be offered), and more.

Annual Meeting News:



2014 APHA Annual Meeting Schedule

Join your colleagues for the most important public health event of the year. APHA's 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition will take place in New Orleans from Nov. 15-19. Network with more than 13,000 public health professionals. Learn from experts in the field. Discover the latest public health products and services. Start planning your visit today. Review the Annual Meeting [highlights](#) or visit the [Virtual Expo](#) to explore the exhibit hall. Add your favorite exhibitors to your MyExpo account. Registration and housing open on June 3. Mark your calendars to register early and save.

American Society of Health System-Pharmacists (ASHP)

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Randy Seys

Website: www.ashp.org

ASHP Professional Practice:

ASHP develops official professional policies, in the form of policy positions and guidance documents (statements and guidelines), for the continuum of pharmacy practice settings in integrated systems.

ASHP Public Policy:

ASHP believes that the mission of pharmacists is to help people make the best use of medications. The mission of ASHP is to advance and support the professional practice of pharmacists in hospitals and health systems and serve as their collective voice on issues related to medication use and public health.

Organization contact(s):

American Society of Health-System Pharmacists
7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

- **Toll Free:** (866) 279-0681 (United States and Canada only)
- **International Callers:** 001-301-664-8700
- **Hours:** 8:00 am to 6:00 pm Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday
- **Email:** custserv@ashp.org

Date: 3/24/2014

Announcements:

- Ambulatory Care Conference and Summit, Dallas, Texas, March 3 - 4, 2014,
- 2014 Summer Meeting and Exhibition, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 31 - June 4, 2014
- National Pharmacy Preceptors Conference, Washington, D.C. August 20 – 22, 2014
- Midyear Clinical Meeting and Exhibition, Anaheim, CA, December 7 – 11, 2014

News:

Leading the News

Study: New Guideline Could Increase Eligibility For Statin Therapy By 13 Million In US.

[USA Today](#) (3/20, Weintraub) reports that [research](#) published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that the cholesterol guideline released last year by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association “would add nearly 13 million people to those already receiving or eligible for statins.”

The [AP](#) (3/20, Marchione) reports that researchers found that “under the new guidelines, 56 million Americans ages 40 to 75 are eligible to consider a statin; 43 million were under the old advice.”

On its website, [TIME](#) (3/20, Park) reports that the majority “of the newly eligible – 10.4 million — would be those who have not had any history of heart disease, but would be advised to take the drugs to prevent a future heart attack.”

[Forbes](#) (3/19) contributor Larry Husten writes that investigators came to this conclusion after they “extrapolated from data from a representative sample of the US population (the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys, or NHANES) and calculated the number of adults 40-75 years of age who would be eligible for statin therapy under the old guideline and the new guideline.”

[CardioSource](#) (3/20) reports that the study found that “the new recommendations have a larger effect in adults age 60 to 75.” Also covering the story are [Reuters](#) (3/20, Steenhuisen), [HealthDay](#) (3/20, Preidt), [Medscape](#) (3/20, O’Riordan), and [Modern Healthcare](#) (3/20, Rice, Subscription Publication). To visit the ACC Prevention Guideline resource page on CardioSource.org, click [here](#).

Drug Approvals

Miltefosine Approved For Treatment Of Leishmaniasis.

[Reuters](#) (3/20, Beasley) reported the FDA approved an oral medicine called Impavido (miltefosine) for the treatment of tropical disease leishmaniasis. The medicine has already been approved for sale in Europe and in some other parts such as the Indian subcontinent. The medicine is manufactured by Canada’s Paladin Labs Inc.

Quality and Safety

Some OTC Cold, Sinus Meds May Cause Serious Adverse Effects.

The [New York Times](#) (3/20, B2, Pollack, Subscription Publication) reports that according to a [correspondence](#) published in the March 20 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine, “some widely used over-the-counter cold and flu medicines may be exposing patients to unexpectedly high amounts of one ingredient, revealing a lapse in regulations and perhaps raising safety concerns.”

[HealthDay](#) (3/20, Reinberg) reports that OTC “remedies that combine two common ingredients – phenylephrine and acetaminophen – might cause serious side effects such as high blood pressure, dizziness and tremors.” The correspondence reveals that when phenylephrine, the replacement for pseudoephedrine in many OTC medicines, “is combined with acetaminophen, blood levels of phenylephrine rise to four times higher than when the same amount of phenylephrine is used alone.” The Food and Drug Administration “is aware of the problem, but agency spokeswoman Andrea Fischer said it has limited ability to regulate.” Researchers report, however, that ibuprofen appears not to cause adverse side effects in combination with phenylephrine.

Regulatory

Regulators Probe Pharmacy Chain’s New Patient Consultation Strategy.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (3/20, Martin, Subscription Publication) reported that HHS’ Office for Civil Rights is investigating the role of pharmacists in handling patient information at a new type of Walgreen Co. stores. These stores are part of the Walgreen’s “Well

Experience” stores that push pharmacists to have increased consultation with patients. The agency is investigating if the new process is creating situations where sensitive patient information is being potentially mishandled, the Journal reported.

Health Business

Hawaii Sues Pharmaceutical Firms Over Disclosure Tied To Blood-Thinning Medicine.

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/20, Gullo) reported Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Sanofi face a lawsuit by Hawaii in which they are accused of failing “to disclose that the blood-thinning drug Plavix” (clopidogrel bisulfate) has “little effect on 30 percent of the population and puts patients at risk for gastrointestinal bleeding.” In an e-mailed statement, Hawaii Attorney General David Louie noted that between 38 percent and 79 percent of Pacific-Islanders and 40 percent and percent of East Asians may not respond well to Plavix because they may be genetically predisposed to inadequately metabolize the medicine.

The [AP](#) (3/20, Kelleher) reported the two companies issued a joint statement declining to comment “on pending litigation.” The statement, however, noted: “Plavix is one of the most studied medicines with over a decade of real-world experience in patients with acute coronary syndrome, recent stroke, recent heart attack and peripheral arterial disease (PAD).”

The news was also covered by the [Pacific Business News](#) (3/19, Subscription Publication) and the [Hawaii Reporter](#) (3/20).

Pharmaceutical Firm Partners With Indian Company In Bid To Protect HIV Patent.

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/19, Gokhale) reported Merck & Co. plans to market an HIV medication in India “by mid-year in partnership with local company Cipla Ltd.” under a “strategy” aimed at protecting “its patent as the Asian nation seeks cheaper generics.” Cipla’s Chief Medical Officer Jaideep Gogtay noted the cost of the medicine will be disclosed in about three months. The treatment, sold as Isentress (raltegravir), “is among more than 20 that an Indian government panel was preparing to” review for compulsory licenses, “which allow cheaper local copies without the patent owner’s consent.” The piece also discussed other medicines for diseases such as diabetes and arthritis that the Indian panel is preparing to review under its compulsory licensing program.

Valeant Eyes Acquisitions In Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Dentistry Sectors.

[Bloomberg News](#) (3/19, Miller, Chen) reported that Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. disclosed “it is seeking acquisitions in ophthalmology, dermatology and dentistry.” CEO Mike Pearson said in an interview on Bloomberg that these areas “are growing faster than the overall growth rate of health care.”

New York Strikes Deal With Gilead To Lower HIV Drug Prices.

The [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (3/20, Hughes) reports that the state of New York has reached a deal with drugmaker Gilead Sciences Inc. to “cut the price of anti-retroviral drugs to treat HIV, state Health Commissioner Nirav R. Shah said Wednesday.” He explained that the state “aims to cut the number of newly diagnosed cases from about 3,400 in 2012 to under 730 by 2020.” Shah estimated that Gilead has a 40% market share “in anti-retrovirals for HIV,” and activists say the deal should “push other manufacturers to follow suit.”

Research

Study: Ribavirin Can Clear Chronic HEV In Solid-Organ Transplant Recipients.

[MedPage Today](#) (3/20, Smith) reports that [research](#) published in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that “ribavirin can clear chronic hepatitis E virus (HEV) in solid-organ transplant recipients.” Researchers found, “in a retrospective case series,” that “3 months of the drug resulted in a sustained virologic response (SVR) in 78% of patients.” The investigators found that “retreatment of six patients who failed the therapy resulted in four achieving an SVR.”

Obinutuzumab Outperforms Rituximab In CLL Study.

[Medscape](#) (3/20, Nelson) reports that in a study [published](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine, “the new anti-CD20 antibody obinutuzumab (Gazyva) performed better than the older product rituximab (Rituxan) when both were added to chemotherapy in previously untreated patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) and comorbidities.” The study indicated that “the combination of obinutuzumab plus chlorambucil was associated with a higher complete response rate than rituximab plus chlorambucil (20.7% vs 7.0%), higher rates of molecular response, and longer progression-free survival (hazard ratio [HR], 0.39; P < .001).”

American Society of Health System-Pharmacists Foundation (ASHP Foundation)

Liaison Officer's Report by CDR Carrie Ceresa

Website: www.ashpfoundation.org

ASHP Foundation Professional Practice:

The ASHP Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the American Society of Health Systems-Pharmacists. The vision of the ASHP Foundation is as follows, "Patient outcomes improve because of the leadership and clinical skills of pharmacists, as vital members of the health care team, accountable for safe and effective medication use."¹

ASHP Public Policy:

The mission of the ASHP Foundation is to improve the health and well-being of patients in health systems through appropriate, safe and effective medication use.¹ This is accomplished by sponsoring practice research leading to advances in patient outcomes, working to educate and develop pharmacists and pharmacists staff as leaders and clinicians, providing funding for programs that optimize medication-use systems, encouraging innovation and adopting best practices, providing recognition and support to diffuse best practices in research and education and establishing partnerships and alliances to inform their mission and goals.¹

Organization contact(s):

ASHP Research and Education Foundation
7272 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

- Phone: (301) 664-8612
- Fax: (301) 634-5712
- Website: www.ashpfoundation.org
- Email: foundation@ashp.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com (search ASHP Research and Education Foundation)
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/ASHPFoundation
- YouTube: www.youtube.com/ASHPFoundation

Date: 4/1/14

Announcements:

- The ASHP Foundation's Center for Health-System Pharmacy Leadership is now offering the leadersInnovation Masters Series. The first course is offered April 12 - May 23, 2014

¹ www.ashpfoundation.org

and is titled, “Perfecting Transformational Leader Skills”. The second course “Strategy and Tactic: Creating Transformational Change” will be offered in the fall of 2014.

- Deadline to register for the first course is April 2, 2014
 - See website for registration and cost information
 - Each courses offers 15 hours (1.5 CEUs) of continuing pharmacy education credit
- The Pharmacy Leadership Academy: Shaping Future Leaders is currently recruiting for the 2014 Academy. The Academy focuses on enhancing leadership and improving patient care. The modules run back to back from July 12, 2014, through June 19, 2015. (See the website for course schedule, description and fees).
 - Application deadline is April 11, 2014
- Safe insulin-use recommendations have been developed by the ASHP Foundation and were first published in the August 15, 2013, print of the *American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy* (AJHP). See the website for a link to the article.
- Free online tool now available to pharmacies to assist in assessing contractors for sterile product preparation. www.ashpfoundation.org/sterileproductstool.
- The ASHP Foundation offers research grant programs, traineeships and awards programs, as well as a number of meetings and events throughout the year (see below)

Applications currently available:

- Awards
 - ASHP Foundation Literature Awards for the following categories:
 - Award for Sustained Contributions
 - Award for Innovation in Pharmacy Practice
 - Drug Therapy Research Award
 - Pharmacy Practice Research Award
 - Student Research Award
 - Applications available: March 14, 2014
 - Deadline: June 6, 2014
- Education
 - Pain and Palliative Care Traineeship – levels 1 and 2
 - Ongoing registration
 - PPMI State Affiliate Workshop
 - Ongoing registration
- Leadership Programs
 - Pharmacy Leadership Academy (discussed in detail above)
 - leadersEDGE Webinar – “Leading for Financial Effectiveness: Pharmacy’s Fiscal Balancing Act”
 - deadline 4/23/2014
 - leadersEDGE Webinar – “Pharmacists Thinking Differently: Transformational Breakthrough in Ideas, Skills and Insights for a Better Patient Future and a More Enriching Practice”
 - deadline 6/19/2014
- Meetings:
 - ASHP Summer Meeting
 - May 31-June 4, 2014, Las Vegas, Nevada

- The ASHP Foundation will hold the following events during the Summer Meeting
 - Exhibit Booth: date and time TBD
 - Annual Donor Recognition Breakfast
 - Sunday, June 1, 2014, 6:30-8:00 am
- ASHP 2014 Midyear Clinical Meeting
 - December 7-11, 2014, Anaheim, California

News:

Patient Safety Awareness and National Poison Prevention Week Radio Interviews

Acetaminophen: Adults, Risks and Safe Use

The ASHP Foundation conducted a radio media tour in March of 2014, for National Poison Prevention Week, featuring Jennifer Polzin, Pharm D., a senior pharmacy consultant in medication management and safety for Kaiser Permanente Southern California in Los Angeles. (Listen to the interviews at www.ashpfoundation.org/2014RadioSpot)

Available Now: The new *Pharmacy Forecast* 2014-2018

“The *Pharmacy Forecast* predicts important developments in eight domains that are likely to challenge pharmacy practice leaders in hospitals and health systems.”² The purpose of the *Pharmacy Forecast* is to aid in the effectiveness of leaders in hospitals and health-system pharmacy by planning for the future.² The focus of the 2014-2018 edition is in the following areas: fiscal planning, quality of care health care analytics, pharmaceutical marketplace, pharmacy practice model, ambulatory care, pharmacy department operations and leadership.² **The *Pharmacy Forecast* is available electronic online, by PDF or at the ASHP Bookstore.**

² <http://www.ashpfoundation.org/pharmacyforecast>



Commissioned Officers Association (COA)

Liaison Officer's Report by LCDR Alexis Beyer

Website: <http://www.coausphs.org/>

COA Professional Practice:

The COA is dedicated to improving and protecting the public health of the United States by addressing unmet health needs and providing support for more than 7,000 members. The COA protects the interests of PHS officers, who are leaders in the realms of public and global health. One of COA's core missions is to provide its members with opportunities to enhance their public health careers through high quality educational and training *opportunities such as the U.S. Public Health Scientific and Training Symposium, held annually.*

COA Public Policy:

The COA's sole focus is to provide legislative advocacy to safeguard the welfare and future of the Commissioned Corps, and to ensure that PHS officers enjoy the same level of support, recognition, and public understanding that our sister uniformed services do for the service they provide to the American people.

The COA has directly contributed to many tangible victories and value added benefits for its members; from inclusion in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits and extension of its transferability, extension of Military Whistleblower Protection Act, inclusion in the fiscal year (FY) 2013 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) provision for a pilot program to provide for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, and others.

Would you like to know what COA is working on right now? Read about COA's current [initiatives](#).

New Benefit:

MPH@GW is a Master of Public Health from the prestigious George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. \$500,000 was set aside for COA members to earn the completely online, accredited Master of Public Health degree from the George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services. COA members can get a \$7500 scholarship for enrolling. Please see this video produced by 2U, COA/COF partners in advanced public health education. <http://2u.com/no-back-row/>

Organization contact(s):

Executive Director	Mr. Jerry Farrell gfarrell@coausphs.org
Deputy Executive Director	Mr. John McElligott JMcElligott@coausphs.org
Membership Coordinator/ Frontline Editor	Ms. Malissa Spalding mspalding@coausphs.org

COA Board Chair	CDR Jonathan Rash Jonathan.Rash@ihs.gov
COA Immediate Past Chair	CAPT Nita Sood Nita.Sood@dha.mil
COA Board Pharmacy category rep	CAPT Beth Fritsch Beth.fritsch@fda.hhs.gov

Date: April 3, 2014

Frontline:

There are some great articles in the March edition of *Frontline*. As always, the update from the Executive Director and legislative update from Judy Rensberger. Thinking of where to retire? Read CAPT Alan Echt on *A Limited Review of State Income Tax Provisions for PHS Retirees*. COA members can logon to their account through the link below to view an electronic version *Frontline*. <https://members.coausphs.org/secure/>

Announcements:

2014 COA Board of Directors Election is Now Open

The 2014 COA Board of Directors election is now open. Click the link below to view the nominee's profiles and cast your vote. In many cases, contested vacancies are won by a mere handful of votes. Your vote does count. Please use it! Vote today for the PHS officers who will help guide your COA for the next three years. The deadline for voting is May 2, 2014.

[Click here to cast your vote for the 2014 COA Board of Directors Election](#)

Registration Open for 2014 USPHS Symposium

Join us in Raleigh, NC on June 10-12 for the 49th annual USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium. Follow the link below to register online today. Presenters will include Tom Frieden of the CDC (invited), retired RADM Fitzhugh Mullan of George Washington University, Dr. Arthur Kellermann of USUHS, Dr. William Lanier of the Mayo Clinic, and senior PHS leaders. The meeting is driving distance from the DC and Atlanta metro areas. Hotel per diem is a low \$96 per night (plus taxes). Attend to receive continuing education credits, get the latest from the Corps, and meet friends and local health professionals.

Junior Officer Scholarship: For those of you who are O-3 and below, it is recommended you apply for the Junior Officer Scholarship ASAP to have the best chance of receiving the conference fee waiver. [USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium](#)

Register today. Earn continuing education credits, learn from colleagues, and reconnect with friends. June 10-12 in Raleigh, NC. <http://symposium.phscof.org/>

COA Branch Market Place

Informational session for COA Branches, COA Branch Marketplace, will be held at the Annual Symposium. Please visit [COA Branch Marketplace](#) for more information.

COA/COF Name New Executive Director

The Commissioned Officers Association and PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health are pleased to announce the engagement of James Tyson Currie as executive director for the combined enterprise. Currie holds a doctoral degree in history from the University of Virginia and is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Dr. Currie was a professor of Political Science/National Security Studies at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University for 18 years. More recently he has worked as legislative director for the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the largest trade association representing the recreational boat building industry, with 1500 members; and prior to that as the director of federal relations at the National Association of State Treasurers. Colonel Currie also worked as a staff member in the U.S. Senate. He is the author of three books and 25 articles.

Colonel Currie was the unanimous choice of the search committee after an exhaustive review of some fifty applicants for the position. He is one of the few applicants meeting all three of the most important criteria identified by the association and foundation boards: uniformed service experience, demonstrated leadership, and success in managing organizations. He has a rich background of accomplishment and possesses the skills necessary to lead COA and COF to continued success in the years ahead.

Currie said that he is honored by his selection to become the executive director for the association and foundation. "It will be the culmination of my career," he said. "I am excited about the opportunity to represent the incredible officers of the U.S. Public Health Service--active and retired--and to furthering the goals of the association and the foundation. Jerry Farrell will be an extremely tough act to follow, as he has been everything you would want in an executive director."

Colonel Currie will replace Farrell who has served as COA/COF executive director since 2001. Colonel Currie will begin work on 1 April. He is COA's fourth executive director since the association was incorporated in 1951.

Foundation Releases 2014 Dependent Scholarship Application

COA affiliate the PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation released the 2014 Dependent Scholarship application due May 2. Eligible applicants are dependents of COA members in good standing. A change from previous years is the essay, which asks students to identify what they intend to accomplish with their degree and how their area of focus relates to any of the PHS categories (e.g., physician, dentist, nurse, engineer, etc.). The Foundation thanks local branches of COA and individual members who donate money to support the Dependent Scholarship.

[Link to Dependent Scholarship Application](#)

National COA is Seeking Nominations for Branch of the Year

National COA is seeking nominations for Branch of the Year Award. Click below for full details and criteria. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 18, 2014.

[Branch of the Year Nominations](#)

News:

Columnist George Will Extols Importance of Public Health Practice

Syndicated columnist George Will's latest opinion piece, published in today's Washington Post, highlights the importance of aggressive public health education and prevention in leading to real, measureable improvements in population health.

Will begins by noting the positive effect of Surgeon General Luther Terry's report on smoking and health in reducing the percentage of Americans who smoke from 40 percent in 1964 to less than 20 percent today. He goes on to cite the recent study reports of a dramatic reduction in childhood obesity rates since the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Reduce Overweight and Obesity issued in 2001.

Will concludes his column with this important point, too often overlooked in the distribution of resources aimed at improving health: "Although preventive medicine is real, society's level of health does not depend primarily on medicine, which too often must be resorted to when our behavior has forfeited our health." Amen to that. [Click here to read George Will's column...](#)

COA Expands Partnership with the George Washington University

Thanks to a partnership with the prestigious George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, COA members are eligible to receive a \$7,500 scholarship to attend one of GW's renowned online master's degree programs:

MPH@GW - A Master of Public Health that develops leaders who impact the health of communities worldwide. [Learn more.](#)

MHA@GW - An Executive Master of Health Administration for professionals with three or more years of experience in the health care or health services industry who are seeking leadership roles in their organization. [Request more information.](#)

Both of these online programs blend top-level curricula, face-to-face interactions and real-world experiences to help you advance your career without putting it on hold.

New COA Member Application –

[Click here](#) to access the online membership application. Once your application is processed, you will receive a New Member Welcome Packet via email and the COA Ribbon (via mail), which can only be worn during a COA meeting or the Annual Symposium.

COA's Member Benefits [Brochure](#) details COA's mission, benefits and current membership rates.

Renew Your COA Membership -

[Click here](#) to access the *Members Only* Website to renew your membership and update your information.

Give COA Membership as a Gift -

To give a COA Membership as a Gift, you may sponsor an officer by filling out the [Sponsor Form](#) complete with your credit card information and then click the "Submit by E-mail" button, or mail the completed form to COA with an enclosed check (payable to "COA").

Please ask the officer who will be receiving the COA Membership if they are currently a COA Member; if they are not a COA Member, please ask the recipient to fill out the [Recipient Form](#) and "Submit by E-mail" to complete the process. If the officer is currently a COA Member, they do not need to do anything further.